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Buckingham wants to strengthen OAG management, improve its performance. PAGE 2

Motion to take possession of 2 DPS officials' property withdrawn. **PAGE 3**

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you stock up on emergency supplies to prepare for Typhoon Melor?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of October 5, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Earthquake Aftermath

Hundreds of children went back to class Monday in schools set up in tents in Indonesia's earthquake zone to get counseling on the loss of loved ones and homes, as authorities tried to restore normalcy after the disaster.

Asia...Page 15

What Women Think

David Letterman should probably care what women think about him—and not just his wife.

Life & Style...Page 21

Family from Illinois cries for help

From left, Richard Johnson, 32, Sierra Fugeat, 13, Amy Gregg, 29, and Destany Large, 5, pose for the media yesterday at the former Pacifica Gardenia beach in Chalan Kanoa. The family from Quincy, Illinois is seeking the community's help in providing them with food and housing until they are able to raise money – also with the help of others – in buying airline tickets for them to be able to go back to their hometown. At one point, they waited for 30 hours at the Saipan airport to plead for help. Inset shows the two children frolicking in the water.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A family from Illinois is crying for help and is appealing to various groups and sectors of the community to facilitate their return to the mainland.

Couple Amy Gregg, 29, and Richard Johnson, 32, moved to Saipan with their

See FAMILY on Page 4

Lawmakers exceed discretionary fund allowances, again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers once again exceeded their quarterly discretionary fund allotments and therefore had to borrow from their colleagues or ask for the reprogramming of at least $9,112 in April to June to cover for budget shortfalls, up from the reprogramming of almost $7,000 in January to March, government records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

CUC completes restoration work earlier than expected

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. restored power to nearly a hundred homes yesterday, which was ahead of the timeframe it earlier projected.

Due to strong winds brought by Typhoon Melor during the weekend, several homes experienced power interruptions.

Worse, 90 homes were disconnected from CUC's distribution grid and were without power as late as Sunday.

CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae earlier estimated that power to the 90 homes will be restored today.

Malae, however, later revised his estimate and happily reported that all the 90

See CUC on Page 4

Samoans flock to churches to mourn tsunami victims

AUDREY McAVOY
ROD McGUIRK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

LALOMANU, Samoa (AP)— Hundreds of survivors of the Samoas tsunami gathered at a church on high ground to mourn lost relatives, while pledging to rebuild their obliterated communities after a disaster that killed 177 people.

The Congregational Christian Church of Lalomanu was packed with about 1,000 people, including relatives from Australia and New Zealand and

See SAMOANS on Page 4

AP

People attend a National Prayer Service in the village of Kanana Fou in American Samoa, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009.

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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

Buckingham wants to strengthen OAG management, improve its performance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham wants to strengthen the management of the Office of the Attorney General and improve its performance.

"I am working to strengthen management. This will include management reporting that has not existed," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune.*

Buckingham said doing so includes tracking and reporting of cases—when they are started, how old they are, what results, etc.

"There are cases which we should dismiss. There are cases we should plea bargain. There are cases we should take to trial. The goal is to make the right choices," he said.

The new AG disclosed his plans for the OAG when *Saipan Tribune* asked comments about the dismissal of a criminal case against a woman without informing the alleged victim.

Yolanda Prado Villa, an accountant, expressed disappointment with the OAG for not informing her when it moved to dismiss the charges against Lorelie Balayo Palayoc, who allegedly came to her apartment room and assaulted her in August 2008.

Buckingham

Buckingham said he along with the deputy AG, chief prosecutor, and members of the OAG Criminal Division, intend to improve their reporting, management, and performance.

"This doesn't happen immediately. But we are taking steps," he said.

The AG said after Villa's complaint, he directed chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch to monitor compliance with the legal standard and train prosecutors on this so they do not have this type of mistake again.

"The Attorney General's Office is responsible to enforce the law. We are also responsible to obey the law," Buckingham said.

In the case against Payoc, Buckingham said, the law gives the OAG a duty to inform the victim, Villa.

"We did not do so. That was an error," he said.

The AG said in most cases the victim's position will be known and respected by the prosecutor.

"And I will monitor this so that this kind of mistake does not reoccur. So, as unfortunate as this case may be, it can help serve our improved service and management of cases so future victims are better protected," Buckingham added.

He said assistant attorney general George Hasselback, who moved to dismiss the case against Payoc, is an excellent attorney.

The AG said when he discussed the Villa's complaint, Hasselback took responsibility and vowed to improve.

"Like him, I make mistakes too. We are stronger when we admit our mistakes, learn from them, and improve in the future," Buckingham said.

Intoxicated ex-convict allegedly rams house

As house owner, son-in-law drinking beer, watches typhoon outside house

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men who were drinking beer outside a house in Achugao while observing the bad weather brought by Typhoon Melor on Friday night, were surprised when an alleged intoxicated ex-convict rammed their house with his pick-up truck.

After ramming the house, Glenn Taman Rios, 32, also challenged to a fight his father, David Rios, who was the one drinking beer with his son-in-law. Glenn Rios' minor daughter was his passenger of the truck at the time.

The police's report did not indicate the damage to the house and to the truck.

Glenn Rios was arrested for disturbing the peace, child abuse or neglect, and contempt of court.

At yesterday's hearing, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $5,350 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 13, 2009 at 1:30pm.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that police officers responded to the residence of David Rios in Achugao after receiving a report about a disturbance Friday at 11:40pm.

Police investigation showed that while David Rios and his son-in-law, Ramon Kaipat, were drinking beer and observing the weather outside the house, Glenn Rios came with his daughter in his truck.

Glenn Rios suddenly rammed his truck to the wall of the house.

David Rios stood up and walked backed inside his house. The defendant, however, reversed the truck and again rammed the house.

The defendant then parked his truck in the middle of the road and challenged his father to a fight.

When a police car approached, Glenn Rios ran to the house of Kaipat.

Kaipat prevented the defendant from going inside his house because he has a newborn baby.

As the two struggled, Police Officer Kwon Nam Hoon handcuffed the defendant's hand. The defendant resisted and was out of control shouting bad words and challenging his father to a fight.

Two other police officers came. The defendant was subsequently arrested.

Prior to the incident, the defendant allegedly engaged in an argument with his wife. He pushed his wife's face then fled with his daughter on board the truck.

Police said Glenn Rios is still under probation and that among the conditions is that he should not consume any alcoholic beverages.

In November 2008, Judge Govendo handed down a three-day jail term on Glenn Rios for choking his minor son and engaging in a fight with another man during the Liberation Day Parade in 2006.

Firm offers help to Manta Ray Band's Carnegie Hall performance

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Manta Ray Band's preparations for next year's New York International Music Festival at the famous Carnegie Hall just got a boost.

This after online company CardPartner (www.cardpartner.com) offered its assistance to the band from Saipan Southern High School.

CardPartner is a company that enables U.S.-based membership organizations and non-profit groups to create custom affinity credit card programs.

CardPartner owner Roger Nielsen, in an e-mail, said that he has helped several non-profit groups and offered some ideas that may work for the Manta Ray Band's fundraising drive.

Nielsen says that they can now create unique card designs, receive $50 per active account opened by their members and get percentage for every purchase made.

Accordingly, there is no cost to any organization that creates a CardPartner Visa affinity credit card program. However, they are requiring a commitment for a three-year period and that it involves a marketing effort for it to be a successful program.

"This works very well for band types," says Nielsen.

However, Nielsen is concerned whether they can implement the program in the CNMI due to U.S. or CNMI legal statutes.

He also suggested another company owned by a friend that can support the fundraising drive by Manta Band.

The company called Sunwest Silver (www.sunwestsilver.com) could manufacture a Manta Ray pin that could be sold as a fundraiser.

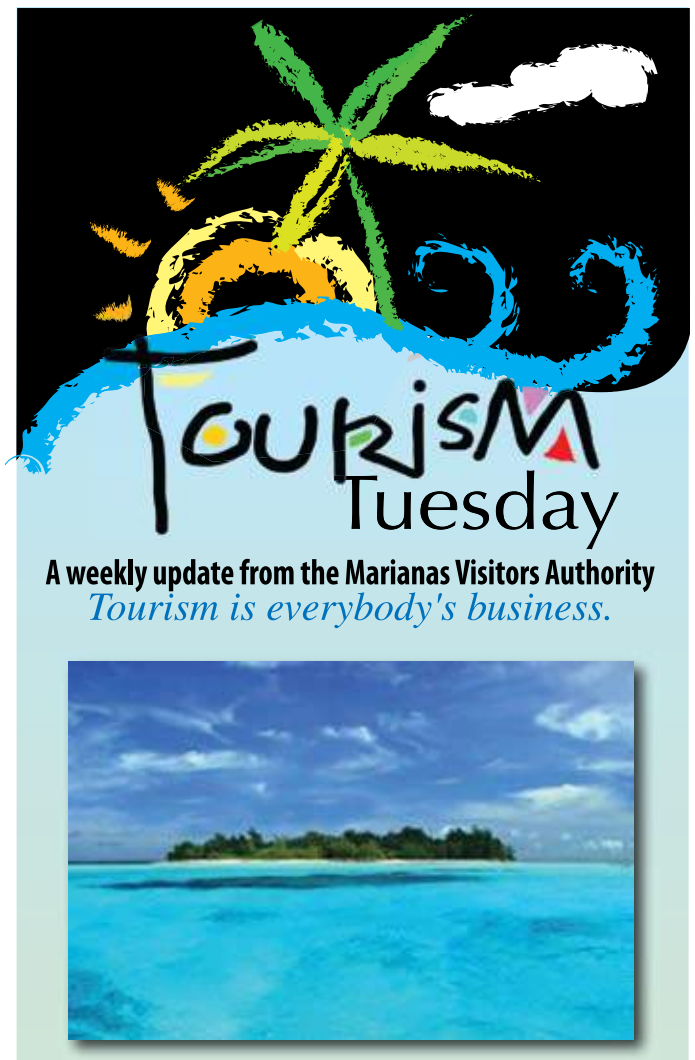
Nielsen, who also owns Minneapolis, Minnesota-based Plexus International, said that the pin could be a pewter or sterling silver.

He plans to visit Saipan in February.

The Manta Ray Band is one of only six high school bands from across the United States to perform at Carnegie from April 17 to 21.

The band's conductor, William Dewitt, earlier said that they need at least $3,000 each for the 40 students, or a total of $140,000 for the trip.

The band members are currently preparing several mini concerts on Saipan to raise the money they need to make it to one of the world's most prestigious and largest music festivals.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Managaha Island A Winner

Managaha Island, that dot of white-sand and tropic palms inside the lagoon of Saipan, has earned the Northern Marianas numerous awards and international recognition for its exquisite natural beauty and rich marine life.

A few minutes on a comfortable ferry from Saipan, Managaha offers tranquility and isolation from everyday life in a setting framed by blue ocean and dotted with historical landmarks.

Most recently, Managaha was named #3 on Yahoo Japan's "must-see ranking" of Best Beaches in the World under the Summer Trip 2009 category by travel agencies associated with Yahoo Travel. Since 2004, the island has also received six acknowledgements at the annual Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, including being named "Best Beach & Snorkeling Spot" at the 7th Dive & Travel Awards 2008.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Motion to take possession of 2 DPS officials' property withdrawn

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has withdrawn its motion to take possession or control or property belonging to Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to withdraw the writ of continuing garnishment and canceled the hearing on the issue that was set for last Friday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz, on behalf of the U.S. government, stated in court papers that on Sept. 1, 2009, a writ of continuing garnishment directed to garnishee, Edward Manibusan, was issued and served upon the law firm.

Cruz said Manibusan's answer was filed with the court on Sept. 9, 2009, which stated that the lawyer (Manibusan) withdrew as the counsel for the Soledad Ogumoro estate on July 27, 2007.

Cruz said Manibusan stated that the law firm was in no manner indebted to Ambrosio and Aniceto Ogumoro.

Munson

For these reasons, Cruz asked the court to withdraw the writ of continuing garnishment.

The federal court recently directed DPS and Manibusan law firm to withhold the salary, money or property of the Ogumoros in order to pay a court's judgment now amounting to $3.9 million against the brothers over an oil spill incident.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk of court issued a writ of continuing garnishment to DPS and estate of Soledad T. Ogumoro's "counsel" Edward Manibusan.

The clerk of court issued such writ after Munson granted the U.S. government's application for the writ.

A writ of garnishment is a legal process which the court orders the garnishee to hold money or property owed within 10 days after the writ is served.

Garnishee refers to a person, entity or corporation in possession of money or property of a defendant or judgment debtor.

Manibusan, however, informed the court that he does not have in possession or control of money or property belonging to the Ogumoro brothers because he does not represent the estate of Soledad T. Ogumoro anymore.

Manibusan disclosed that he withdrew as counsel for the estate administrator in these probate proceedings of the Soledad Ogumoro estate in July 2007.

The Ogumoros then requested the court for a hearing regarding the garnishment issue.

The Ogumoros claimed they do not owe the money that the U.S. government says they do. They also argued that the property the U.S. government is trying to take is exempt.

Munson then granted the Ogumoro brothers' request for a hearing and set the matter for last Friday.

Rookie cop catches suspected burglar, solves other burglary cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An alert rookie police officer arrested a teenager who allegedly burglarized a house in San Jose and stole a laptop computer and other items on Thursday morning.

Not only did Police Officer 1 Jonathan Decena caught the 14-year-old boy, but he also recovered the stolen items, including items from previous burglary cases.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the juvenile was arrested and transported to DPS central office for booking and temporary detention.

The boy was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Tarkong said that, on Thursday at 8:23am, DPS received report about a burglary and theft incident at a residence in San Jose.

Officer Decena responded and talked with the victim, a 61-year-old Chamorro, who stated that she discovered that her house was burglarized when she arrived from church.

Some of the items stolen were a laptop computer and canned foods.

While Decena was conducting the investigation he saw a juvenile lurking in the trees outside the victim's residence.

When Decena went outside to investigate, the juvenile ran away. The officer chased the suspect on foot.

When Decena asked why he was running, the juvenile confessed to burglarizing the victim's house.

The suspect even led Decena to the location of the stolen items that included the laptop and canned goods, plus other items that he stole from previous burglaries.

Tarkong said the recovered items were canned goods, laptop, digital camera, and other miscellaneous items.

23 students vie for Youth Congress seats

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Twenty-three students have signified their interest to run in the Youth Congress election this month, while 1,700 teenagers have so far registered for the upcoming poll.

Friday was the deadline for the filing of petitions for candidacies for the 23 positions up for grabs this year.

Youth Congress coordinator Roz Leon Guerrero said as of Friday, 1,701 students have registered for the Oct. 19 election.

The figure covered voters from the seven precincts and 10 school election districts.

Leon Guerrero said registration is expected to rise as soon as updated records from other schools are received this week.

Still not being counted as of Friday were voters from Northern Marianas Academy, Northern Marianas College, and Tinian High School.

Because of the statewide professional development last week, public schools also asked for an extension of the registration period to this week and vowed to push students to participate in the election.

Saipan Tribune learned that from the 1,701 registered youth voters, the bulk came from Marianas High School which recorded 748 voters. MHS is home to about 1,200 students this school year.

The rest, Leon Guerrero said, is shared by other schools and precinct voters.

There were a total of 2,563 registered voters during last year's Youth Congress elections.

However, come election day only 37 percent of them showed up to cast their votes.

Leon Guerrero said they are aiming to get 2,000 registered voters and high turnout on Oct. 19.

"That's our target…and we're very hopeful," she told *Saipan Tribune*, citing schools have shown their collaboration with the Youth Congress in encouraging students to participate in the election.

It is only this year that a new database will be used by the Youth Congress, particularly in its election.

The new system provides updated data and information about youths and candidates as well as statistics during previous years' Youth Congress leadership.

Leon Guerrero said since they started using the new system, they recorded "significant" progress in the processing.

"This database also automatically put those who failed to registered or vote in inactive status," she said.

This is also the first time that a new law is implemented that changed the date of the Youth Congress poll to Oct. 19 and the inauguration date on Nov. 21 as well as the reorganization of youth senators for each school and precinct level.

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Admin drafts bill for MPLT to remit $4.1M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has drafted legislation authorizing the Marianas Public Land Trust to remit $4.1 million of interest income to the general fund for appropriation in Fiscal Year 2009, but no lawmaker has so far introduced the bill days after a new fiscal year began on Oct. 1.

Under the two-page draft bill, the $4.1 million was interest income withheld from FYs 2001 to 2006 pursuant to Public Law 10-29 and Section 6 of P.L. 12-27.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, in an interview, said the administration expects the Legislature will act on the bill even after FY 2009 had ended.

But days into FY2010, the Legislature has yet to introduce the bill. The Legislature also failed to pass a timely budget in FY2010 which began on Oct. 1.

The government is under continuing resolution again, and will be spending according to the $148 million in resources available for appropriation similar to the previous fiscal year.

In his letter to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Inos said prior to the FY 2009 appropriation, proper legislation was not introduced to authorize MPLT to make the transfer from interest withheld pursuant to P.L. 10-29 and Section 6 of P.L. 12-27.

"MPLT stands ready to transfer the funds to the general fund once a legislation authorizing said action is passed and signed into law, but not before then," said Inos, attaching a copy of the draft bill to his Sept. 21 letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

Inos, a former secretary of Finance, said it is "imperative" that the legislation is passed as it is a resource listed for appropriation in P.L. 16-32 and House Concurrent Resolutions 16-2 and 16-3.

He said without the $4.1 million, the CNMI government's "ailing fiscal budget will be further jeopardized."

As early as June, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee already warned that the government is expected to have an additional $4.1 million deficit in FY 2009 if MPLT does not transfer to the general fund the resource listed as "recovered interest."

SAMOANS

From Page 1

rescue workers for a belated funeral service Sunday for 52 friends and loved ones. A national prayer service also was held in neighboring American Samoa.

Outside the church in Lalomanu, the bereaved hugged and wept. Failuga Gase, whose home was destroyed, cried silently for four family members.

"It's a special occasion to memorialize those" who died, the father of three told The Associated Press. "In our usual way, we have a grave ceremony for those who have died, one by one."

Families are gradually coming to terms with the losses inflicted when tsunami waves roared ashore after an underwater earthquake struck last Tuesday with a magnitude of up to 8.3. The death toll rose by one Sunday to 136 in Samoa after officials identified decomposed human remains, government spokeswoman Vaosa Epa said. Thirty-two people were killed in American Samoa, and nine in nearby Tonga.

The church in Lalomanu was unscathed by the giant wave, because it is built on higher ground than the many beachside homes that were destroyed.

Representatives of 10 families spoke of the 52 lost relatives who less than a week ago had been part of the congregation in this deeply Christian country.

One woman said her family is saddened that they lost their mother but thankful the tragedy wasn't compounded.

Luluu Berns said her sister, brother-in-law and their seven children had all survived, although at one point the 16-month-old youngest child was missing.

"Five hours later, they found this little boy on the beach," she said. "He was face down and the father found him and brought him up and shook him a little and he was still alive. I thank the Lord for this precious miracle that he did for this little boy."

Along the southeast coast of the disaster zone, some damaged churches stood derelict Sunday while villagers gathered in others to pray.

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele joined hundreds of Samoans for a memorial service involving most of Samoa's Christian denominations in the capital Apia, on the opposite side of Upolu's devastated southeast coast.

Sailele, whose own village of Lesa was washed away by the giant wave that also claimed the lives of two of his relatives, also visited the city's public hospital where he distributed food and clothing to up to 90 patients who had been injured by the tsunami, Epa said.

Earlier, Monsignor Ioane Vito celebrated the first Mass of the day in a 19th century Roman Catholic cathedral on Apia's waterfront, urging the congregation to unite.

"Don't dwell on it but rebuild our lives together as a community," Vito said at the Immaculate Conception of Mary Cathedral. "Pain will unite us, and unity will give us strength."

Unity also was the theme on American Samoa, a U.S. territory, where about 1,000 worshippers packed the pews for a two-hour national prayer service at the Congregational Christian Church in the town of Tafuna. The congregation spilled onto benches outside, women in white bonnets and full-length cotton dresses, the men wearing ties, jackets and traditional wraps, or lavalavas.

Gov. Togiola Tulafono praised the generosity of residents and the Samoan spirit, noting that many have opened their homes to those who lost theirs.

"We can give thanks to the Lord for the blessings we received through this catastrophe. Although there were so many lives lost because of it, in retrospect, God has spared so many more," he said.

Residents are still taking stock of the physical damage caused by the tsunami. Villagers in remote areas of American Samoa were waiting for government officials to assess damage to their homes and shops before they can start cleaning up.

CUC

From Page 1

homes have been reconnected to CUC's power grid early yesterday morning.

"The restoration work was completed this morning," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malae revealed that outages during the two-day disaster were caused by flying debris or vegetation coming into contact with the primary lines, including trees falling on conductors.

CUC receives an average of 500 calls during typhoons, but the agency marked a significant reduction last weekend as it recorded only 125 total calls complaining of power outages.

Saipan Tribune learned that it was late Sunday noon when CUC was informed about the power outage in the Juvenile Detention Center in Kagman.

Malae said the area where it is located was out of power for several hours while other places suffered power interruption for 12 hours.

He said the cause of this specific interruption was the hardware on the pole tops failed and falling trees made it worse.

"We are replacing those pole top pins on a regular basis now before the next storm hits," Malae explained.

The CUC official earlier described the damage to the agency's power network, which includes transmission and distribution systems, as "fair" and no dollar figure has not been assigned to these damages.

He disclosed that line crews have been working round the clock in 12- to 14-hour shifts since Friday evening. Malae also added there was also no damage reported to the power distribution systems of Rota and Tinian.

He revealed that the damage caused to the water and waste water facilities was also minimal and that sporadic power outages only resulted in the shut down of pumps in the affected areas as well as one of the wastewater treatment plants.

FAMILY

From Page 1

two daughters in August believing that a good opportunity awaits them on the island.

With barely a few things and $746 to their name, the family arrived last Aug. 20 and lived at the pad of Gregg's younger sister.

In the first month of their stay, Gregg said everything seemed to work out well for both families.

While she and her husband looked for jobs, they were able to send Sierra Fugeat, 13, to Hopwood Junior High, while Destany Large, 5, studied kindergarten at Dandan Elementary School.

Despite sending out numerous job applications, the couple received no concrete offers. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Gregg is a certified nursing assistant while Johnson also worked in the healthcare field.

"We sold almost everything we have [in Illinois] just to buy the ticket for our family and be here. I never expected that we will end up here…on the beach, nowhere to go, nothing to eat, and no money for our ticket. All we want now is to get a ticket and be home with my kids," a very emotional Gregg said.

She disclosed that it was on Sept. 27, a Sunday, when she and her sister had a falling out because of a petty children's quarrel. The sister kicked them out of her house. Gregg said they had no choice but to carry their luggage and the kids all the way to the airport.

Gregg's sister works at a federal agency on island and lives at Lower Dandan—a few miles away from the Saipan International Airport.

"Without anything in our pockets… we walked all the way down to the airport and spent 30 hours…without any food with us," she cried, adding that it was through the kindness of Ulysses Sabuco that they were able to survive the ordeal after the nonresident worker gave them temporary accommodations.

Saipan Tribune learned that while sleeping at the domestic airport with just towels with them, Commonwealth Ports Authority personnel also extended assistance to the family by providing them food and drinks.

Cockpit Café, The Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross also delivered food to the family in the 30 hours they were stranded at the airport.

Gregg admitted that they were initially refused assistance by some groups explaining that specific assistance caters to specific purposes, but definitely not for airline tickets for the family.

The husband and wife, in their great disappointment, even appealed to their families back home to chip in money for their airfare.

Saipan Tribune learned that the family needs at least $4,400 to buy their plane tickets to Illinois.

"If one of us could get a job…and we can have a place to live here, we will stay until we get the money for our tickets," she said.

After sleepless nights at the airport, Sierra Fugeat described her first Saipan experience as "terrible." The two kids have been out of school since last week.

The wife and husband said they were very grateful to Sabuco who kept them in a safe place in a hotel and provided food for the children.

However, the couple believes that the situation will not last. "We need to find another place…and we don't know where to go."

Yesterday, the family was seen on the beach where they and their daughters tried to enjoy the good side of island life.

The couple said they were ill-informed by Gregg's sister about the island. "We didn't know that minimum wage here is $4.55 per hour. We gave her all our trust, and we're disappointed this is happening."

Johnson, however, admitted that if not for the unfortunate circumstances, "I love this island…and we met a lot of awesome people."

"…our plan is to try go back home and start our life again," he said.

For those who want to help the family, call 483-4996.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

Each lawmaker was allotted $22,367 in the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 or from April to June, lower than the $26,217 allotted during January to March.

The discretionary or operational funding is separate from the annual salary of $39,300 of each member of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Office of Management and Budget records show that House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) transferred $1,200 to the discretionary fund account of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider in April.

Palacios could not be reached for comment yesterday but he told *Saipan Tribune* previously that he and his running mate, Hofschneider, share some operational expenses and resources that would explain the transfer of funds on a regular basis.

Hofschneider is running for governor in the Nov. 7 election, and Palacios is his running mate.

In two separate occasions, Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) transferred $556 each to the account of Rep. Joseph Reyes.

Reyes received two other transfers of money, this time amounting to $750 each from Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan).

"The transfer of money is necessary to help out one another," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the money transferred to his account helped him assist the community, including church activities and sponsorship of sports events for worthwhile youth activities.

Reyes said he is open to audit of all expenditure of funds and transfer of money.

"It's hard not to entertain requests from the community especially if you know these are for important things," he added.

Benavente, for his part, received a $500 transfer of fund from Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) in June.

In May, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) transferred $200 to the account of Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

"That's for the spear fishing tournament and instead of coming directly from my account, I transferred that to his account," Tebuteb said in an interview.

Another $200 was transferred to Deleon Guerrero but the records did not indicate the source of the transfer.

Tebuteb later received from Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) a transfer of $1,400.

In a phone interview, Tebuteb said the reprogrammed $1,400 was for the repair of a pavilion on Precinct 3.

Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan) also transferred $300 to Rep. Oscar M. Babauta's (Covenant-Saipan) account.

In June, Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) transferred $2,000 to the account of Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan) and $700 to Reyes.

Salas confirmed transferring $2,000 to Apatang's account. "It's a common practice for us to help our colleagues who are in need of funding," he said.

Salas also said that the $700 transferred to Reyes' account was used for transportation for him to be able to attend a House Education and Welfare Committee public hearing on Rota and Tinian.

"I couldn't go to the public hearing and he wanted to but didn't want to use his account so I went ahead and transferred that amount to him," he added.

Reyes also received another $556 from Rep. Ralph Torres.

Some lawmakers transferred some of their discretionary funds to a few of their colleagues to cover for budget shortfalls, among other reasons.

‘Reliance to food stamp due to high utility cost’

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin O. Faisao said people continue to rely on the food stamp program because of the islands’ high utility costs.

He said that increases in electricity, water, and sewer costs are impacting everyone in the community, adding that the Commonwealth’s unbearable utility costs compete directly with what families and individuals allocate for food.

Faisao made the comment after learning that Office of Vocational Rehabilitation director Margarita Olopai-Taitano made a statement that one of the factors hampering the reintegration of persons with disabilities to the work force is the presence of the food stamp program.

During last week’s signing of a proclamation declaring as October 2009 a national Disability Employment Awareness Month, Olopai-Taitano said that the trend for persons with disabilities reintegrating to the work force continues to rise “but very slow for many factors, such as inconvenience, too much suffering, low self-esteem, food stamps and SSI can take care, etc.”

Faisao, however, said that he is taking Olopai-Taitano’s statements as constructive criticism.

He said that OVR programs do not differ from DCCA programs “for reasons that services provided out of our programs are tailored to be consistently be transparent and accountable in line with federal laws and federal regulations that created the funding opportunities.”

Faisao said that federal programs have the assurances that there will no discrimination of welfare assistance and services to people with disabilities, low income, or indigent community members and military veterans.

Faisao said that DCCA welcomes any proposition that any CNMI agency have to ensure that the people with disabilities are not discriminated from services of the food stamp program.

“As far as equal employment concerns, DCCA will work with OVR on how to address their concerns,” he said.

GCA sets ‘Harvest Fest Night’ fundraiser

Grace Christian Academy will hold its “Harvest Fest Night” fundraising event on Oct. 16 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The special dinner event will be spiced up by entertainment and performances and proceeds will be used to the resurfacing of the school’s basketball court and the procurement of bleachers.

Committee chairman Rep. Ed Salas, R-Saipan, said tickets for “Harvest Fest Night” are priced at $30 for singles and $50 for couples.

Salas said the committee is dedicated to improving the school’s buildings and optimistic that it will continue to assist and offer help to GCA students.

Proceeds from the three previous fundraisers have been used to improve the infrastructure of the school.

“This year marks the completion of construction on the new school library. We also built a covered walkway connecting Building A to Building B to protect students from the rain,” Salas said.

To assist in realizing GCA’s goals, which include the roofing of the basketball court, installation of bleachers, and the purchase of a school bus, Salas asked the community to consider making a monetary or in-kind donation to the school.

GCA is a registered nonprofit organization and all contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the fundraising committee. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Man robs woman at Prince Hotel

An unidentified man robbed a woman by grabbing her purse at Prince Hotel in Sadog Tasi on Thursday night.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the victim, a 57-year-old Korean female, lost her brown purse and ladies wallet containing $300 cash.

Tarkong said the suspect was described as in his late 30s, about 5’4” tall, 140 to 150 lbs., heavily tattooed, with short dark hair. He was wearing a gray sleeveless shirt and dark short pants.

Tarkong said the suspect was last seen entering a house in Sadog Tasi and is still at large.

Tarkong said that, on Thursday at 12:03pm, police responded to a reported purse snatching incident at the Prince Hotel.

Police Officer I Jonathan Decena arrived and met with the victim and some witnesses.

Police investigation showed that the victim and a witness saw the suspect loitering around Prince Hotel so they approached and repeatedly told him to leave the area.

The suspect, however, suddenly grabbed the victim’s purse and ran into the woods.

Several Koreans boarded their cars and assisted the victim in searching the immediate area for the suspect.

One of the searchers saw the suspect enter a residence located on another street in Sadog Tasi.

Officer Decena and other police officers set up a perimeter outside the residence and contacted the house’s owner.

When the owner gave permission to search the house, police officers went inside but failed to locate the robber. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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US Coast Guard clears CNMI seaports

The U.S. Coast Guard lifted the closure order for all three seaports in the Commonwealth following hours of intensive assessment yesterday on the three islands.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Acting Executive Director MaryAnn Q. Lizama disclosed that the captain of the ports issued the lifting order at 2pm yesterday.

The three seaport facilities did not allow any movement of vessels since Friday in anticipation of Typhoon Melor. All vessels slated for arrival and departure were then suspended until further notice.

Lizama disclosed that for Saipan seaport, the U.S. Coast Guard completed the assessment work in about four hours, while it spend two hours each for the ports of Tinian and Rota.

Bouys, channel markers that guide the vessels' movement, are being checked regularly by the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure safety at the ports.

As soon as the lifting order yesterday, CPA immediately informed vessels operators.

Lizama said though the U.S. Coast Guard conducted assessment of the bouys, the ports authority in its post-typhoon assessment reported no damage on properties for both airport and seaport facilities.

The acting executive director described the assessment as a mandatory process when typhoon readiness reached conditions 1 and 2.

Lizama, meantime, ordered the reopening of Saipan and Tinian airports last Sunday morning after the islands were declared typhoon-free.

Among the flights affected during the storm were that of Asiana Airlines, Northwest Airlines, and Continental Micronesia. All of the islands' flight schedule resumed Sunday. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

MAN'AMKO GOES HI-TECH AT NMC

John Manalo of the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute (CDI), a program under the Division of Community Programs & Services, assists a senior citizen at a keyboarding workshop specially catered to *man'amko*. CDI will be conducting similar sessions along with other computer courses throughout the month of October. Courses are open to the general public. For more information, contact John Manalo at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OWWA makes available loan for Ondoy victims

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Overseas Filipino Workers in the CNMI and around the world whose families were affected by Typhoon Ondoy can now avail up to $213 (Php10,000) of the Calamity Loan Program from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the Philippine Consulate General's office on Saipan announced yesterday.

Typhoon Ondoy (international name Ketsana) affected about 2.8 million people and inundated a large swath of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces in the Philippines.

Under the CLP guidelines and procedures, OWWA is allocating an initial 10 million pesos as economic relief that may be availed by OFWs or their family members residing in the National Capital Region, Region III, and Region IV.

These areas were gravely affected by Ondoy, while another super typhoon—Pepeng (international name Melor)—hit the Bicol Region, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon during the weekend.

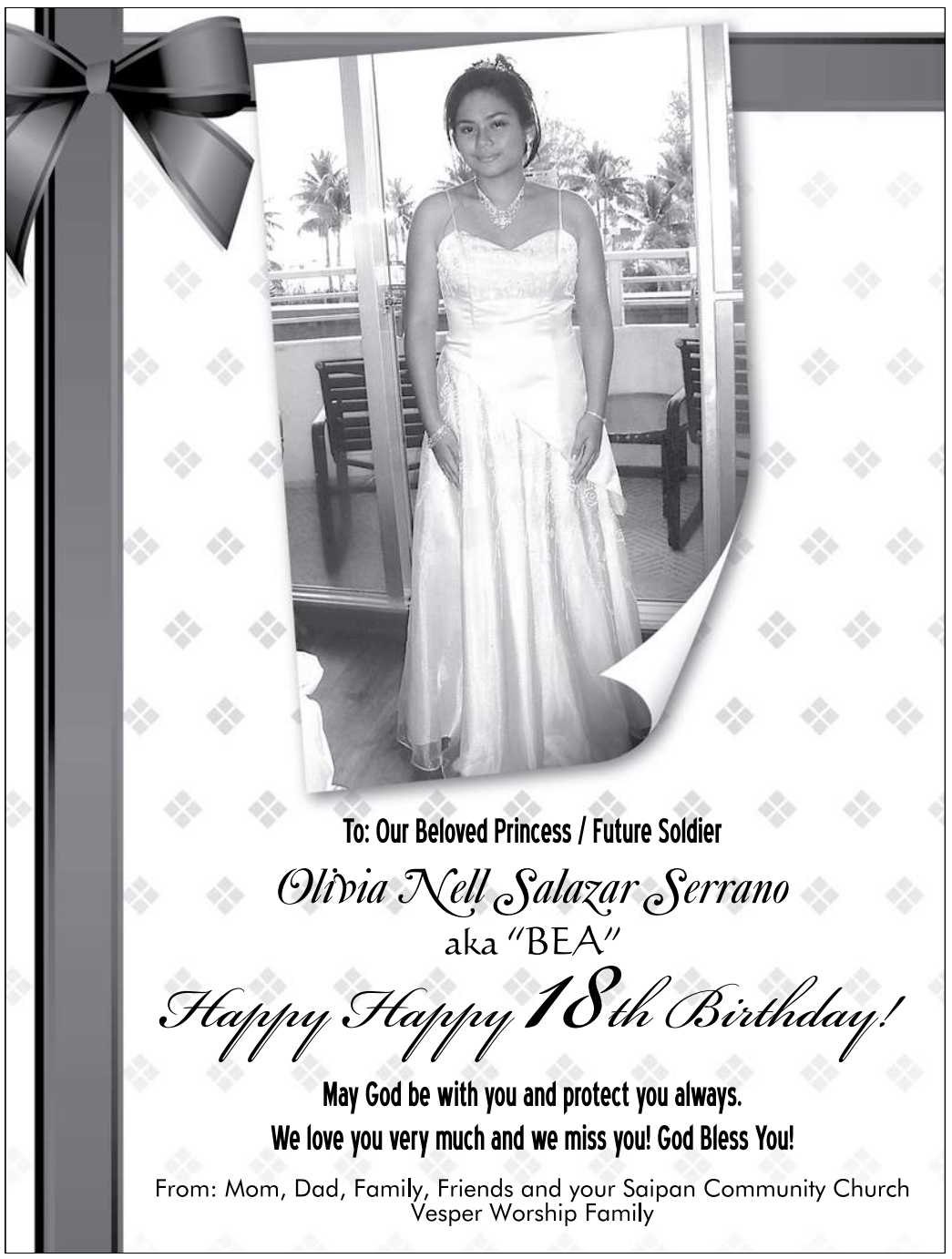
A qualified beneficiary could avail of this one-time loan up to a maximum amount of Php10,000, which is non-collateral and no-interest.

The calamity loan could be payable within 24 months with 120 days grace period.

Any interested OFW or his/her dependent family member who wishes to avail of the program may submit requirements to the respective Regional OWWA office in the Philippines.

The basic requirements include certification from authorized official of the Local Government Unit (office of the mayor, baranggay captain, DSWD and other relevant offices); proof of active OWWA membership (valid certificate of coverage or official receipt); proof of relationship to OFW if applicant is a dependent of OFW-member; and duly accomplished application form.

For further inquiries, OFWs in the CNMI are encouraged to visit the Philippine Overseas Labor Office at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or call welfare officer Rey Tayag at 235-6992.


To: Our Beloved Princess / Future Soldier
Olivia Nell Salazar Serrano
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Happy Happy 18th Birthday!
May God be with you and protect you always.
We love you very much and we miss you! God Bless You!
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Vesper Worship Family

UFO *collects* 11 *boxes for* RP *typhoon victims*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 11 boxes of donated clothing and food items are now ready to be sent to Manila for victims of Typhoon Ondoy (international name Ketsana).

United Filipino Organizations president Olive Yana said their member organizations would be meeting at her house 7pm tonight to help sort out the donated items.

The boxes would be sealed and transferred to LBC Mabuhay Saipan Inc., which had earlier offered free shipping service.

Yana said they will finalize the manifesto for individual items in time for the first shipment tomorrow, Oct. 7.

Meanwhile, the deadline for cash donation would be until next Friday, Oct. 9. All the leaders of the member organizations are now reaching out to their respective members and asking for donations that will be given to victims of Ondoy.

Those wishing to donate can drop off their packages as at K-WOW, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Happy Market in Garapan.

The items would be given directly to the Department of Social Welfare and Development and ABC-CBN Foundation Sagip-Kapamilya.

UWM, PILCOWA conduct joint-fund drive

The United Workers Movement, NMI and Pilipino Contract Workers Association (PILCOWA, INC.) yesterday jointly agreed to launch a fundraising drive.

Rabby Syed, UWM-NMI president said, they need to extend helping hands to their brothers and sisters in the Philippines, who recently endured a string of calamities.

"Everybody needs to come up with anything that they can afford to help the victims. We are urging all the contract workers and also local residents to donate clothing, canned goods, and cash," he said in a statement.

The fundraising drive will be until Oct. 12, said new PILCOWA president Jun Concillado.

All donations will be forwarded to the Philippines right after the one-week fundraising drive.

All in-kind donations will be forwarded through airfreight through the help of a Saipan foundation (name withheld) and cash donations will be forwarded through door-to-door.

Ronnie Doca, UWM-NMI and PILCOWA board chairman, said all donations will be forwarded to the office of Hon. City Councilor Sammy Ferriol of Marikina City and the City Councilors office will be the one in charge for the distribution of donations to the typhoon victims.

Donations can be dropped off at the following sites: Doris Dress Shop in the Oleai-San Jose area (look for Nick Riveral).; Western Union Office across Hannam Market (look for Beth Directo) in the Koblerville area; and Ronnie Doca's residence across the former Stella's Market in the Chalan Kanoa-Susupe area.

For pick-up arrangement, contact Syed at 285-3306, Concillado at 288-0191/287-0191, or Doca at 285-9255.

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In the past year alone, IT&E has sponsored more than 20 teams in the following sports leagues: Saipan Little League Baseball association, Tinian Little League Baseball Association, Rota Little League Baseball Association, IT&E Inter-Government Basketball League, Saipan Major League Baseball Association, Belau Softball League, PILCOWA Basketball League, the Northern Marianas Football Association, Saipan Electronic Darts Association, the Commonwealth Football League, ISK8, Teen Talk and local dance groups including Project Impact and Level Up.

IT&E also sponsored the CNMI Junior National Men's and Women's Basketball teams as well as MP United U-14 Boys and the CNMI Little League All-Stars in their off-island competitions. In addition to leagues and teams, IT&E has for many years proudly sponsored a number of high profile sporting events, including the FIBA Oceania Invitational Tournament, Tagaman Triathlon, XTERRA Saipan Championship, the Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, the Banzai Half-Marathon, Gorilla Warfare MMA, the Hell of the Marianas, the IT&E Aquawalk, and the upcoming Marianas Cup Outrigger Canoe Paddling Festival , just to name a few.

But IT&E's contributions are not just limited to sports. We've also contributed to a number of local organizations such as Mathcounts, Northern Marianas College, Guma Esperanza, CHC Volunteers, PAWS, Beautify CNMI!, Marianas March Against Cancer and the International Coastal Clean-Up among others. IT&E also provides year-round DSL to all of the local Youth Centers across the island of Saipan as well as numerous fund raisers for local schools. IT&E is also there as a major sponsor for our local cultural celebrations as well as government events such as the annual Liberation Day activities, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, the Taste of the Marianas, Pistang Pinoy, Humanities Council, the Pacific Mayor's Conference and the CNMI Economic Restoration Conference.

When times get rough, the CNMI can also count on IT&E. Most recently we continued our partnership with the American Red Cross by providing 25 phones for Emergency Operations during Typhoon Melor. We also provided up to the minute weather updates with our 211 service that can be accessed from any phone in the CNMI.

Now IT&E is seeking local support in our pursuit of $14-million for island-wide infrastructure upgrades in available ARRA funds from the federal government. These upgrades will bring a new level of communications to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

At IT&E, we don't just promise to give back to the community, we do it. And your investment in us allows IT&E to return the favor so that everyone benefits.

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Spennemann exhibit at NMI Museum

The public is invited to the opening of "Tantalizing and Troubling Visions," an exhibition of photographic works by historian and author Dirk H.R. Spennemann.

The photographic works exhibit will be held tomorrow, Oct. 7, from 6pm to 8pm at the NMI Museum.

Spennemann, a professor in Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage Studies with the Institute of Land, Water and Society at Charles Sturt University Australia, has published several books on the CNMI.

Spennemann

He is also an accomplished photographic artist, who in his recent work aspires to interpret cultural elements through the visual arts. Spennemann has had several solo exhibitions in Australia, one of which is currently touring. Additional exhibitions are scheduled for 2010 in both Australia and Alaska.

The exhibition features people and places in today's CNMI, taken over the course of one-week in September 2009. All of the photographs in the exhibition were taken using a unique method of photography called "Through The Viewfinder," or TTV, a process that involves the capturing of images broadcast on the viewfinder of an antique camera, by a newer high-quality digital camera.

Spennemann will be on hand to talk about the work, and the equipment he uses in the TTV process. Entrance to the NMI Museum will be free for the opening reception.

The NMI Museum is open Mondays through Fridays, 9am to 4:30pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12pm. Entrance is $1 for residents. ***(PR)***

USCG Guam conducts assessments after Melor

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam began assessing the ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Sunday morning immediately following the passage of Typhoon Melor.

U.S. Navy helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Twenty Five (HSC-25) helicopters transported Coast Guard personnel, including the personnel, including the Sector Commander and members of the Pacific Strike Team, and conducted over flights of the port of Saipan.

The over flights will focus on identifying damage to Aids to Navigation and pollution incidents as a result of the storm.

"Since they were hit with tropical storm force winds, the Coast Guard has to ensure that all of the Aids to Navigation, such as buoys and ranges, are on station and watching properly prior to reopening the ports," said Lt. Christ Norton of Sector Guam's Prevention Department.

Sector Guam requested a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft from Coast Guard District Fourteen, Honolulu, Hawaii and one was dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Barber's Point. The C-130 aircraft will arrive later this afternoon and will transport Sector Guam personnel to conduct additional over flights and other missions as necessary. ***(USCG)***

Child Care Program to hold pre-eligibility assessment

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will hold pre-eligibility assessment for new applicants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds tomorrow, Oct. 14, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria.

The pre-eligibility assessment will be held between 5pm and 7:30pm. The first 100 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 100 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Parents/guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

- Three latest check stubs that shows applicant's name, number of hours worked, hourly wage, and gross earnings
- Most recent 1040 tax
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credits)
- Training schedule (at least 60 hours bi-weekly)
- For this program opening approved applications will be funded under ARRA and is on;y good for one year.

If you have any questions regarding the Child Care Program, please call 664-2575 or 664-2576 and look for administrative manager Linda Concepcion-Torres or program director Maribel Loste. ***(PR)***

WESPAC meeting set

The Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will meet on Oct. 14 to 16, 2009, at the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii.

The meeting, from 8:30am to 5pm (Hawaii Standard Time), is open to the public.

Major agenda items include catch shares, habitat, Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review of Hawaii bottomfish, blue shark stock assessment, recommendations on acceptable biological catches for insular stocks, tuna quota management recommendations, territory bigeye longline quota recommendations, and Cross Seamount total allowable catch.

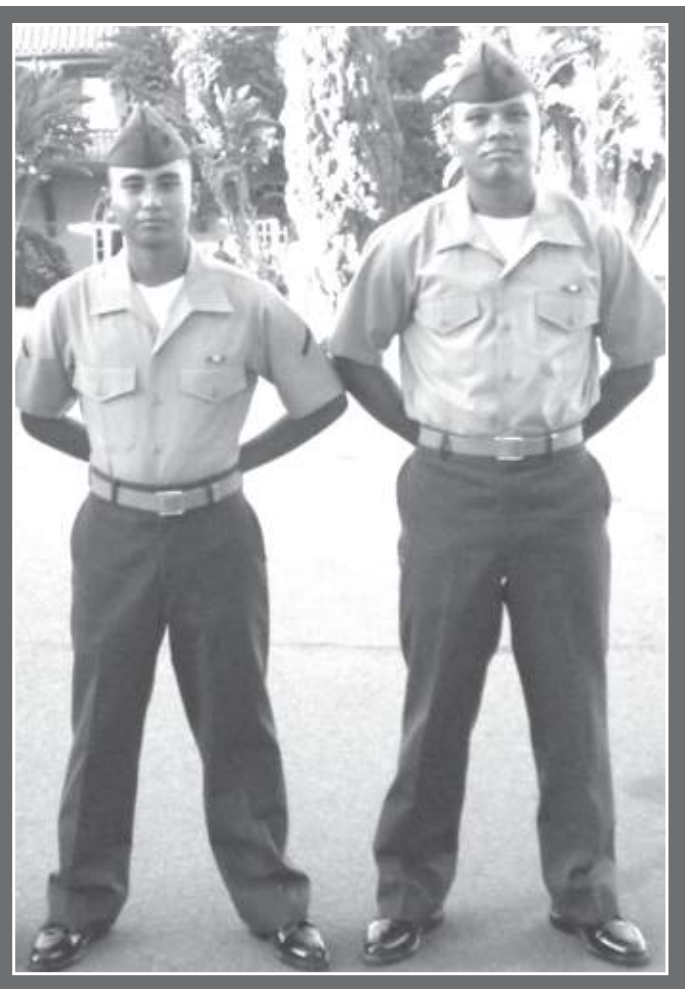
The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Pacific remote island area.

For more information or an agenda, visit www.wpcouncil.org or email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov; phone (808) 522-8220, or fax (808) 522-8226; in CNMI, Jack Ogumoro, (670) 322-9830 or 287-9482. ***(PR)***

NEW MARINES
Congratulations go out to the newest members of the U.S. Marine Corp.—PFC Derick Dela Cruz, left, and Pvt. Hiram Aldan. Greetings from Dimis and Pinky Dela Cruz.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
Happy birthday Joannie LouEm Laniyo and many more birthdays to come. We love you very much! Greetings from your Mom, Dad, and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Happy Birthday to Shaun F. Iguel. May your day be filled with so much joy! Love you always baby! Greetings from your darling.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 6, 1999

Tinian Express sails anew
After conducting a thorough inspection of Tinian Express for six hours, U.S. Coast Guard officials flashed the go-signal for the vessel to leave Saipan Harbor at around 8:30 pm last night with some 76 passengers on board, mostly Japanese. Ferry service between Saipan and Tinian was supposed to have resumed at 5:00 pm yesterday following a court order that lifted the seizure of two vessels owned by the Tinian Shipping Company. However, the ferry schedule was delayed due to inspections aimed at ensuring the sea worthiness of the ferry. Lt. Mike Leon Guerrero, chief of the U.S. Coast Guard on Saipan, and Lt. Steve Willis, head of the marine safety inspection division of U.S. Coast Guard on Guam, inspected the life saving device, fire fighting equipment and engine to make sure that the vessel is in good condition to ferry passengers.

Tax incentives to FTZ investors opposed
Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez yesterday expressed concern over a proposal to grant tax holiday to investors on the planned free trade zones in the Northern Marianas, saying the incentive program must be cut from 20 years to less than eight years. He said a study should be conducted by the Subcommittee on Free Trade Zone to back up the provisions in the legislation establishing these special economic sites to ensure that the Commonwealth will benefit from the plan. "Twenty years is too long," said Villagomez, referring to a provision allowing the free trade zones to offer a package of tax incentives to potential investors for such a period.

Oct. 6, 2000

Hastert urged to oppose US minimum wage in the CNMI
Saying no study has yet been made to assess the impact of extending federal minimum wage law to the CNMI, local lawmakers yesterday formally sought intervention of U.S. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert to block attempt to press such proposal. In a resolution adopted at their session, members of the local House of Representatives prodded Mr. Hastert to oppose the application of the U.S. minimum wage to the islands. The appeal came as a group of Democrat members of the U.S. Congress has stepped up pressure to raise minimum wage here at par with the federal level.

Major policy-change on DOLI's function splits House
The House of Representatives yesterday set into motion a major change in existing policy on the processing of nonresident workers in the CNMI by diminishing government's oversight on the contract forged with their employer on the islands. But the move drew opposition from some of the members as they expressed fear that such a change could lead to more contract disputes and labor problems besetting the island-government. Under existing laws, the Department of Labor and Immigration reviews all contracts of guest workers before issuing permits to determine whether employers comply with the conditions of their employment.

Oct. 6, 2002

Group calls for BoS rehabilitation
Bank of Saipan depositors urged the Superior Court not to allow the CNMI government to withdraw its money from the bank through the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth Development Authority. In a letter to Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan, Save Our Savings spokesperson Anthony Pellegrino said the CDA MOU does not appear to benefit all BoS depositors, adding that the proposal will be advantageous to the CNMI government alone. "It totally disregards the welfare and the wishes of the remaining depositors. We stand to lose any possibility of revitalizing the bank and perhaps giving it a new life," Pellegrino told Manibusan in his letter.

BoR says background check on Wright made prior to his hiring
A comprehensive review of the performance and background of Northern Marianas College President Kenneth Wright, Ph.D., was made prior to his hiring, according to the NMC Board of Regents. Kimberly King-Hinds, in an Oct. 4 letter addressed to Saipan Rep. Stanley Torres, said the board has gained significant knowledge of the president based on his and others' accounts. The letter was made in response to Torres' earlier letter to the Board inquiring whether it has performed sufficient background check on Wright, who recently initiated a campus-wide reorganization which resulted in the termination of 11 personnel.

CNMI ARRA PROGRAM

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Will be held at American Memorial Park Visitor's Center on October 7th, 2009 (Wednesday) from 5-7pm.

These companies will be evaluated by a panel of judges as to their ability to meet the needs of the CNMI.

We encourage everyone to attend!

Any questions/concerns please feel free to contact Alfreda Camacho at 664-3015.

Live video teleconference available on Tinian and Rota NMC Campuses

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

More work to be done on health care

The bill that will emerge this week from the Senate Finance Committee is the best version of health-care reform that Congress has mustered so far. That is both a testament to the committee chairman, Max Baucus, D-Mont., and a rebuke to Congress, for even this latest version falls short of the standards that President Obama has set. And it is a warning, too, because from here on most of the pressures in Congress will push the legislation in a less responsible direction. If Congress is to pass a bill that greatly expands coverage, does not expand the deficit and begins to reduce health-care costs—Obama's criteria—he will have to begin playing a larger role.

Let's start with the Baucus bill's imperfections. It lays claim to passing Obama's test of not raising the deficit but manages to do so only by failing to pay for increases in Medicare physician reimbursement rates that everyone knows that Congress will approve—about $230 billion over 10 years. This is akin to announcing that you have fully paid for renovating your house when one room has a big blue tarp where its roof should be. As House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, D-Md., put it, this may "look better, but it's a facade of looking better."

Even so, it's not clear that the working poor will be able to afford insurance under this bill's provisions. For example, a family of four making $44,000, or twice the poverty level, would have to pay more than $3,000 in premiums—and would also face a typical deductible likely to be around $700 plus co-payments. The panel approved an amendment from Sens. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, to excuse more people from having to pay a penalty if they fail to obtain insurance. This does not make health insurance more affordable; it just makes not having insurance more affordable, and it means that 2 million more people will remain uncovered.

The pushing and pulling needed to win a committee majority has shaped a system that looks increasingly confused. Individuals earning up to 133 percent of the poverty level will be covered by Medicaid. The committee adopted an amendment from Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. that would allow states to establish a different, privately administered program to cover those earning between 133 and 200 percent of the poverty level. Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., won approval of his amendment to reinstate the CHIP program for children in low- and middle-income families. Then there are the newly created exchanges for small businesses and those without employer-sponsored insurance. This is an awfully balkanized arrangement in a field that benefits from clear enrollment rules and large risk pools.

Yet the Finance Committee bill emerges with an architecture for a reasonable compromise that would both expand coverage and help bend the cost curve. It at least begins to tax, albeit indirectly, employer-provided health insurance, which would be key to raising revenue and controlling costs. It moves in the direction of establishing a medical board that could mandate cost-efficient medicine with a minimum of political interference. And it envisions the sensible trade-off whereby everyone is required to obtain insurance and, in exchange for these new (and often healthy) customers, insurance companies stop discriminating based on prior unhealthy conditions.

The work now shifts behind closed doors, where the Finance bill will be melded with a significantly different version of reform produced by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions prior to floor consideration toward the end of the month. Most of the pressure will be toward giving away more goodies while raising less revenue. To get to the final result he has promised, Obama will have to push hard in the opposite direction.

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Russia, Iran and the US

By FRED HIATT
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

If you heard Secretary of State Hillary Clinton suggest last Sunday that the Russians are beginning to come around to the U.S. way of thinking on Iran, it may have sounded familiar.

For more than a decade, U.S. officials have been patiently explaining to the Russians that their interests are the same as ours in preventing Iran from building nuclear weapons. For just as long, U.S. officials have been telling themselves that the Russians are starting to get it.

Maybe this time it will turn out to be true. The U.S. logic is, as always, irrefutable: Russia's standing as a nuclear power is diluted every time another country goes nuclear. Iran is particularly, uncomfortably, close. And given Russia's restive Muslim population in the Caucasus region, closer to Iran than to Moscow, Russia's leaders should be especially leery of a revolutionary Islamic regime getting the bomb.

So far, however, the actions of Russia's leaders have suggested that they don't see things exactly as Americans believe they should. They consistently have dangled the possibility of cooperation with the United States while undermining alliance unity and maintaining their connections to the Iranian regime. So it might be worth entertaining other theories about Moscow's logic.

It might be, for example, that Russia understands the value of keeping Iran nuclear-free, but values even more the fruits of its commercial and military trade with Iran.

Perhaps Russian leaders are not united on the question. In the early 1990s, Clinton administration officials persuaded themselves that President Boris Yeltsin accepted their Iran logic but that he wasn't strong enough to control his nuclear-industrial complex, which wanted trade with Iran. Today the theory is different: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev may see the light but is stymied by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

It might be that Russia believes that the stalemate status quo is pretty close to ideal. Iran can be delayed in its progress toward nuclear status but also prevented from normalizing relations with the United States and the West. And as long as those relations are sour—and the West won't buy Iran's natural gas—Russia's leverage over Europe, as Europe's main gas supplier, is enhanced.

Perhaps Russian leaders are not united on the question. In the early 1990s, Clinton administration officials persuaded themselves that President Boris Yeltsin accepted their Iran logic but that he wasn't strong enough to control his nuclear-industrial complex, which wanted trade with Iran. Today the theory is different: Russian President Dmitry Medvedev may see the light but is stymied by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Or maybe the Russians accept the logic—but don't believe Iran can be dissuaded. In that case, their smartest policy would be to hold out hope to the Obama administration that they can be brought along—thereby continuing to win U.S. concessions on missile defense, arms control and other matters for as long as possible—while seeking a privileged position in Tehran for the day when Iran goes nuclear.

Their smartest policy, in other words, would look very much like the one we're seeing today.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gloom on Iran policy

By JACKSON DIEHL
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Diehl writes for The Washington Post*'s editorial page.*

The Obama administration's positive tone following its first diplomatic encounter with Iran covers a deep and growing gloom in Washington and European capitals. Seven hours of palaver in Geneva haven't altered an emerging conclusion: None of the steps the West is considering to stop the Iranian nuclear program is likely to work.

Not talks. Not sanctions, even of the "crippling" variety the Obama administration has spoken of. Not military strikes. And probably not support for regime change through the still-vibrant opposition.

For obvious reasons, senior officials won't state this broad conclusion out loud. But it's not hard to find pessimistic public statements about three of the four options. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called the prospects for diplomacy "very doubtful." Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said military action will do no more than "buy time." Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, echoing private statements I've heard from the Obama administration, told me last week that a strategy of backing the Iranian opposition "would take too long" and might well produce a government with the same nuclear policy.

As for sanctions, Western officials rarely disparage them in public. They don't want to help spoilers in Russia and China who want to block U.N. action against Iran for their own reasons. But many are doubtful about them, and with good reason. Despite hints of cooperation by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the White House is pessimistic that Russia or China will agree to the sort of escalation in sanctions that would command Iran's attention, such as a ban on gasoline supplies or arms sales or new investments in oil and gas production.

The history of sanctions in the region also is not good: More than a decade of punishment, including regular airstrikes, had no positive impact on Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Iran's current rulers, many of whom came of age in the Revolutionary Guards during the Iran-Iraq war, sound convincing when they say they are ready for the country to suffer more austerity for the cause of Iranian greatness.

What of Thursday's talks in Geneva? Iran agreed to international inspections of its new nuclear facility and to ship out of the country some of the uranium it has enriched. Yet those modest concessions may complicate the negotiations and the prospects for sanctions. The headlines about them already obscured the fact that Tehran's negotiator declined to respond to the central Western demand: that Iran freeze its uranium enrichment work. Iran has rejected that idea repeatedly, and there is no reason to believe the hard-liners in power will change their position.

In the meantime, talks about the details of inspections and the uranium shipments could easily become protracted, buying the regime valuable time. (On Friday the Associated Press quoted a member of the Iranian delegation as saying it had not, in fact, agreed to the uranium deal.) Meanwhile, Tehran's tactical retreat has provided Russia and China with an excuse to veto new sanctions—something they would have been hard-pressed to do had Iran struck an entirely defiant tone in Geneva.

The Obama administration and its allies have said repeatedly that they will pursue diplomacy until the end of the year and then seek sanctions if diplomacy hasn't worked. That sets up a foreseeable and very unpleasant crossroads. "If by early next year we are getting nothing through diplomacy and sanctions," says scholar Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution's Saban Center, "the entire policy is going to be revealed as a charade."

What then? Pollack, a former Clinton administration official, says there is one obvious Plan B: "containment," a policy that got its name during the Cold War. The point would be to limit Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons or exercise its influence through the region by every means possible short of war — and to be prepared to sustain the effort over years, maybe decades. It's an option that has been lurking at the back of the debate about Iran for years. "In their heart of hearts I think the Obama administration knows that this is where this is going," Pollack says.

I suspect he's right. I also don't expect Obama and his aides to begin talking about a policy shift anytime soon. For the next few months we'll keep hearing about negotiations, sanctions and possibly Israeli military action as ways to stop an Iranian bomb. By far the best chance for a breakthrough, as I see it, lies in a victory by the Iranian opposition over the current regime. If that doesn't happen, it may soon get harder to disguise the hollowness of Western policy.

Teug Na Asunton Hinemlu

Ginen: JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Sumen dañkulu gastoña asuntun hinemlu. Kulan asuntun CUC. Ti sina na un` separa i yenereta `sino matai i kandet. `An matai i kandet, matai lokue I hanom. `An taya kandet yan hanom pues tumai bali i sisteman paip aplacha (sewer). Debi de todu u fañgalamtem gi un` sigidu.

Apmam na tiempu de hu tatiye este na asuntu pot dos rason: 1). Ansiosuyu lumie` na man-homlu tautauta. 2). Estague` na attikulu i mas migastu gi halom todu gastu, petsonat `sino gi operasion gobietnu.

Tineteka man-neni, echu idat famaguon, mañaina yan man-amku, man-gai fiñkas para apas setbisiun hinemlu yan man-tai fiñkas. Mi motmurasion sa todu klasen sopas guaha. Todu para un fan malañgu gi kareran niha mona. Akuantu mohon umadahe siha yan kuantu man-diskuidau.

I kualidat hinemlu, mampos petsonat ya solu i prohimu siña dumiside futtunaña. Yangin un` attende todu kinalamtenmu deste neñkanu esta homlu` na eksisiu, mauleg siempre hinemlomu. Yangin puru diskuidu, pues siempre megai chinatsaga un` padesi.

Lau taya` dinida na hagu mismu solu kapitan batkon hinemlomu. Todu pot todu, i primet pasu para hinemlo `sino pinadesen diskuidu gaige giya hagu. I dos adeñgmu chechetun giya hagu; taigue gi otru tautau. Estague sustansian este na asuntu.

Faktu na mientras sige hulu este na gastu, chumacha gigugu yan dañkulu na mariban rinikohen kontribusion tax ni ta apapase kada sakan. Bahu mampus I ekonomia mina` taiguine ta padedese pagu. Ni unu gai isau sa` enteru i tanu parehu pinadesi. Megai na bisnis mahuchom pettan niha. Mas menos inapasen kontribusion tax. Estague na estau `nai man-gaige hit todus.

Man-malañgu tautauta piot gi bandan mames haga` (daibetes), korason yan todus klasen kanset. Este na chinatsaga gaige i modun linala`ta. Sumen na` chatsaga este siha na aminasu gi hinemlu natibu. I neñkanu, gimen yan nuebuna kutturan sufa gi menan television i humohogsi megai na tautauta pagu.

Dimas de u kahulu ya u eksisiu, umason gi menan television ya ha tutuhon lokue man-ñgagas miengtras ume`ega. Duru lokue i daño̱su na gimen man-mames.

I sentadata patte gi primet problema ni umaminasa i hinemlu` natibu. Lau manñge sentadan tanu ayo mina guse`ña ta oriyaye ke tasuhaye. Maseha motmut asiga yan tinilada na mantika, sige ha` ta gulusuni sa` manñge ma`asin yan mantika gi fina` katne yan guihan siha. Maseha dañosu, taimanu ta suhaye I paire na flitadan guaka yan babue pat paksiun ilun babue `sino kadun patas?

Megai gi entre hita para u fan ninaye` mames haga` (daibites) ni finañagun modun linala` natibu. Yangin esta ninaye hau nu este na chetnot, solu satbasionmu i para un` tatitye rekomendasion mediku. Yangin un` diskuida hau, pues lamegai mas otru chetnut para un` padese. Lau yangin un` tatiye fiet abisun mediku, pues guaha chansamu homlu linala`mu maseha gaige hau esta guine na estau.

Man-suette natibu gi tradision ayudu yan dinaña. Este na pogsi muna libianu dididi maseha haye na familia gi oran chinatsaga yan minalañgu. Sin este na tradision, megai pinadesi yan namase` na finapos para i man-amkota ni munesesita ayudu. Maila ta abiba este na tradision assistimientu gi dos amku gi uttimu suspiros. Si Yuus Maase`!

Letters to the Editor

Saipan is good but Guam is much better

Last July 10 my wife and my daughter went to Guam to visit and to watch Liberation Day parade. Going out from the Saipan International Airport to Guam there was no problem with my wife personal belongings. But when she came from Guam, she told me that the immigration personnel in airport gave her a hard time. They told her that body lotion was not allowed on the airplane. My wife got mad, then, the officer told her next time no more lotion for hand carry.

Same thing that happened to me went I went to Guam. I had more than 30 ball pens in my hand carry to give my grandchildren. The immigration officer gave me hard time even brought me to their office to check them one by one. I got mad and I told them never mind.

I left because somebody was waiting for me outside. I told the immigration officers that they could have all the ball pens and just let me go. Then they gave me back all the ball pens. Another thing a Filipina also gave a hard time to a resident from Saipan who was related to a senator here.

Why it's happening to our island? I don't blame the Guam airport for giving us hard time and screening our baggage because last month the DNA confiscated 510,000 gram of ice. Judge Alex Munson also sentenced Manuel Aldan Jr. to 18 years and six months for distributing controlled substance.

Despite the tropical storm hitting our island, there's no excuse for those stealing cows and laptops, holding up pawnshop, and poker arcades. The FBI also uncovered an SS card scam and a man got 18 months for tax scam. Add to this, our honorable senator introduced a bill, $1.61 million for another casino on Rota.

Guam is better because the gaming casino offers a million dollars for the benefit for Guam plus thousand jobs with a federal rate and all the mayors have shares from the casino plus millions of dollars for the convention center. All of these they turned down because the people of Guam and their lawmakers had one voice to vote "no" for the gaming casino, Biba Guam!

Manong Teddy Guiao
Lower Navy Hill

Refund of CUC bill in not the solution

We understand the plight of CUC. The recent ruling by the CNMI Supreme Court points to a mistake in the way decision was made to try to fix the problem at CUC.

However, just because the Supreme Court acknowledges certain action by the administration to be unconstitutional, reversing such action in the form of refunding CUC customers will not improve the situation, instead it will definitely worsen the situation.

What need to be done instead is to pursue alternative energy projects namely geothermal, solar concentrator, vertical axis wind turbine, and wave turbines.

Today's alternative energy technology if pursued will eventually lead us to energy independence. We should not be expecting refunds from CUC, perhaps CUC customers can receive credits to be applied to future electrical consumptions. Leaders should know what is best and stop the nonsense of using CUC as a platform for reelection.

Leaders should be focusing on solutions to problems, and stop capitalizing on problems that you should be solving instead. Be reasonable.

Frank M. Atalig
Via e-mail

Sorry for crime committed

I am writing this letter to sincerely apologize for the crime I have committed. To commit a big mistake like this to a company is like knowing that a lot of people went through a lot of pain and suffering for what I've done.

I have served time at D.O.C. and now I am placed under probation. I have paid for my fees and fines. I hope that CUC and the people that had been affected forgive me for my predicament. I understand that the things that I have done has brought shame to myself and my family. I promise that such thing will never happen again.

Juaquin E. Norita

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

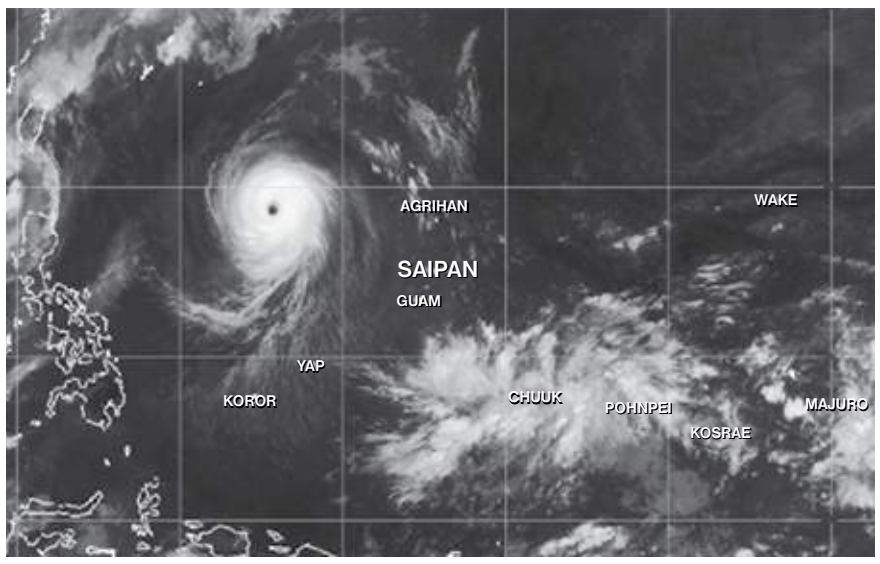
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼43
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲68	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲55	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼79
New York	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼58
Osaka	Rain	▲67	▼59
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼57
Pusan	Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼57
Salem	Sunny	▲68	▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Tokyo	Rain	▲66	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Melor (20W) is centered west of the cnmi at 19N135E moving west-northwest at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 160 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are found between 16N and 21N from 133E to 138E. For more information on Typhoon Melor, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ34 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under wmo header WTPN34 PGTW. A monsoon trough runs from 18N130E to Super Typhoon Melor to southeastward to a weak circulation centered north of Chuuk near 10N152E then continues to another weak circulation centered west of Majuro near 17N167E to beyond the date line at 12N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across a broad area within 180 miles of a line from 2N145E to 9N146E to 7N153E to 6N161E. This area includes Chuuk and Pohnpei. Also, from 2N171E to 6N173E to 8N176E to 7N180. This area includes Majuro and within 50 miles of a line southwest of Kwajalein from 6N168E to 8N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:40 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
9:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:57 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
8:17 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:16 PM	7:32 AM
Wednesday	8:05 PM	8:29 AM
Thursday	9:00 PM	9:29 AM
Friday	9:58 PM	10:30 AM
Saturday	11:00 PM	11:31 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Even as layoffs persist, some good jobs go begging

By CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
AP BUSINESS WRITER

In a brutal job market, here's a task that might sound easy: Fill jobs in nursing, engineering and energy research that pay $55,000 to $60,000, plus benefits.

Yet even with 15 million people hunting for work, even with the unemployment rate nearing 10 percent, some employers can't find enough qualified people for good-paying career jobs.

Ask Steve Jones, a hospital recruiter in Indianapolis who's struggling to find qualified nurses, pharmacists and MRI technicians. Or Ed Baker, who's looking to hire at a U.S. Energy Department research lab in Richland, Wash., for $60,000 each.

Economists say the main problem is a mismatch between available work and people qualified to do it. Millions of jobs with attractive pay and benefits that once drew legions of workers to the auto industry, construction, Wall Street and other sectors are gone, probably for good. And those who lost those jobs generally lack the right experience for new positions popping up in health care, energy and engineering.

In this photo made Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, Anthony Washington gives instructions to new employees during orientation at Clarian Health's Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

AP

Many of these specialized jobs were hard to fill even before the recession. But during downturns, recruiters tend to become even choosier, less willing to take financial risks on untested workers.

The mismatch between job opening and job seeker is likely to persist even as the economy strengthens and begins to add jobs. It also will make it harder for the unemployment rate, now at 9.8 percent, to drop down to a healthier level.

"Workers are going to have to find not just a new company, but a new industry," said Sophia Koropeckyj, managing director of Moody's Economy.com. "A fifty-year-old guy who has been screwing bolts into the side of a car panel is not going to be able to become a health care administrator overnight."

It's become especially hard to find accountants, health care workers, software sales representatives, actuaries, data analysts, physical therapists and electrical engineers, labor analysts say. And employers that demand highly specialized training—like biotech firms that need plant scientists or energy companies that need geotechnical engineers to build offshore platforms—struggle even more to fill jobs.

Devices locate kids, parents find peace of mind

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With a computer or cell phone and an electronic tracking device, you can locate a missing pet, follow the path of a stolen car, find a skier buried in an avalanche and rescue a hiker lost in the woods.

So what about a child snatched by a stranger?

About 800,000 children are reported missing in the U.S. each year. The vast majority are runaways, followed by parental abductions, said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. About 58,000 children are kidnapped by strangers, and 99 percent of those come home fairly quickly, often victims of sexual abuse.

Then there are the approximately 115 children a year like Jaycee Dugard, who are snatched then murdered, ransomed or kept for several years.

Ever since Dugard's recovery in August after nearly two decades of allegedly being held in a Northern California backyard, parents and others have written on blogs and commented online to articles about ways to protect kids.

There are technological tools that give parents some peace of mind, from clip-on alarms to GPS locators that can be dropped in a backpack or stuffed in a teddy bear, but experts caution that the gadgets are not without their limitations and can even raise safety concerns of their own.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Recession-stung stores plan old-fashioned holidays

NEW YORK (AP)—Stores are turning back the clock, conjuring images of hearth and home as they stock their holiday merchandise. Retailers hope embracing holiday traditions from cozier times will tempt recession-weary consumers to open their wallets in a season expected to show flat sales at best. That means shoppers will see more gingerbread houses and peppermint crunch cookies, and fewer exotic teas and flavored olive oils; classic ball ornaments instead of offbeat cowboys or cartoon-themed character figures; and an emphasis on simple festive wear like shimmery tops instead of elaborately beaded gowns. Traditional Christmas colors—red, green and gold—are also back. That's a big departure from recent years when stores pushed the whimsical and splashy, from the upside-down Christmas tree fad in 2007 to stockings adorned with mermaids and elephants. Stores, wary after the sudden, deep drop in spending late last year, seek to tap into an American psyche that wants comfort and affordability after so many shocks.

Government report questions rescue claims

WASHINGTON (AP)—The credibility of the government's $700 billion financial rescue program was damaged by claims a year ago that all of the initial banks receiving support were healthy, a new report contends. Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky generally found that the government had acted properly in October 2008 as it scrambled to implement the Troubled Asset Relief Program to avert the collapse of the U.S. financial system. But the report said that then-Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and other officials were wrong to contend at an Oct. 14 press conference that all nine institutions receiving the first round of support—$125 billion—were sound. "These are healthy institutions, and they have taken this step for the good of the economy," Paulson had declared at the time.

Earnings likely to determine stock rally's future

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market's bulls are slowing their charge, and upcoming earnings reports will determine whether they keep going forward or just stop. A two-week slump in response to disappointing economic numbers has investors asking whether the market's powerful rally is fading on what would be the start of its eighth month. Analysts have been calling for a break in the ferocious advance, but now that it's here, even many who expect further gains are adopting healthy caution. This year's rally has lifted major stock indexes more than 50 percent from 12-year lows on March 9 and pumped new life into beaten-down investment accounts. Now, though, questions about whether the gains are justified are more urgent because stocks are worth far more than they were only months ago. The market jumped 15 percent in the July-September period.

Great time for US consumers: America is on sale

NEW YORK (AP)—There has never been a better time to be a consumer. America is on sale.

The Great Recession has caused massive job losses and hardship for millions, but it has also fostered a shoppers' paradise. Anyone who still has the means to spend can find unheard of deals.

Prices on everything from clothes to coffee to cat food are dropping, some faster than they have in half a century. Items rarely discounted—like Tiffany engagements rings—are now. The two biggest purchases most people make—homes and new cars—are selling at steep price reductions.

"This is the new normal," says Donald Keprta, president of Dominick's, a supermarket chain in the Midwest, which just cut prices by as much as 30 percent on thousands of items. "We aren't going back."

Consumers like Karen Wilmes, a mother of two in Hopkinton, R.I., relish the steals. During a recent trip to Shaw's Supermarkets, she bought a basketful of goods, including Eggo waffles, Kleenex tissues and Betty Crocker cake mix. The retail price: $63.89. Wilmes paid $7.31 by buying items on sale and using coupons.

"The deals out there are unbelievable," says Wilmes, 36, who writes the Frugal Rhode Island Mama blog, which tracks local and national bargains. "We can put the money I save toward something else."

And she's doing just that, but only when she can find another deal. Wilmes and her husband recently bought a Samsung television from Best Buy's Web site for $1,299, about $300 less than she found at other stores. She also got free delivery and another $13 back from ebates.com, which receives commissions from online retailers for directing customers their way.

AP

Karen Wilmes of Hopkinton, R.I. checks out her savings while her daughter, Allison, waits, during a shopping trip on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009 in Westerly, R.I.

What's happening now has been building for years. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. introduced "every-day low prices" many years ago. Amazon.com redefined the idea of bargain prices during the late 1990s when it helped introduce online shopping. After the 2001 recession, automakers introduced zero-percent financing to boost sales. McDonald's "Dollar Meals" made fast food even cheaper.

But until the Great Recession came along, consumers hadn't seen anything yet.

Last fall's financial meltdown triggered a plunge in stock prices and home values and wiped out 11 percent—$6.6 trillion—of household wealth in six months. It also put an end to easy credit, which had fueled the consumption that powered the economy for most of the decade.

Waves of new fund cuts imperil US nursing homes

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The nation's nursing homes are perilously close to laying off workers, cutting services—possibly even closing—because of a perfect storm wallop from the recession and deep federal and state government spending cuts, industry experts say.

A Medicare rate adjustment that cuts an estimated $16 billion in nursing home funding over the next 10 years was enacted at week's end by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—on top of state-level cuts or flat-funding that already had the industry reeling.

And Congress is debating slashing billions more in Medicare funding as part of health care reform.

Add it all up, and the nursing home industry is headed for a crisis, industry officials say.

"We can foresee the possibility of nursing homes having to close their doors," said David Hebert, a senior vice president at the American Health Care Association. "I certainly foresee that we'll have to let staff go."

The funding crisis comes as the nation's baby boomers age ever closer toward needing nursing home care. The nation's 16,000 nursing homes housed 1.85 million people last year, up from 1.79 million in 2007, U.S. Census Bureau figures show.

Already this year, 24 states have cut funding for nursing home care and other health services needed by low-income people who are elderly or disabled, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonprofit research firm based in Washington, D.C.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

SD town gets rid of 44 tons of stinking bison meat

BRIDGEWATER, S.D. (AP)—Behind the freezer doors at a meat plant mysteriously abandoned by its owner, the 44 tons of bison meat managed to hold its own for months, masked by the brutal chill of two South Dakota winters. Once the power was cut and spring thaw arrived, nature took over. And enough rotting meat to fill a high school gym did exactly what you'd expect: It stank. It stank at the bank. It smelled at the law office. It reeked at the cafe. Even the jewelry store wasn't immune. Everyone in this tiny town could smell it, everywhere they went. A putrid odor so downright nasty the cleaners sent to mop up the gooey mess of liquefied meat—topped by a blanket of swarming white maggots and buzzed by a legion of flies—gave up after two days. "You've also got the city offices, the grocery store and the post office. And then you spread out to the local residences," said Mayor Marty Barattini, pointing to each place. "This is a small town. We have just over 600 people, so that stench was enough to overwhelm the entire town. Not just this street."

Car slides under trailer on I-95 in Philly; 4 dead

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—State police in Philadelphia say a car has gone out of control and has slid under a tractor-trailer on a major highway, killing four people. Police say the car was speeding and changing lanes while heading south on Interstate 95, one of the nation's longest highways. They say it was in a left lane just north of the center of the city early Sunday when the driver turned the steering wheel to the right before losing control and hitting the rig. All four people in the car died at the scene. One of them was ejected. The rig's driver was uninjured. The crash temporarily closed parts of the southbound lanes of I-95, which connects 15 states from Florida to Maine. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Ill. treasure hunt halted as possible prank

ST. LOUIS (AP)—An Illinois woman who set out on a treasure hunt for buried gold coins after finding a cryptic note in an antique rocking chair may have been the victim of a prolific prankster who died more than 30 years ago. With help of a donated backhoe, Patty Henken recently tore up a vacant lot in Springfield, Ill., where a typewritten note signed by "Chauncey Wolcott"—found in an old chair she bought at auction last November—suggested she would find a chest containing more than $250 in U.S. gold coins. The dig turned up nothing but bricks and old bottles. Henken planned to return Tuesday with the donated services of a man with ground-penetrating radar meant to detect any buried items, but the treasure note's promise may already be debunked. An Iowa woman who read news accounts of the hunt said she knows Wolcott's true identity: John "Jay" Slaven, a notorious practical joker and coin collector who often used a typewriter in his pranks.

Firefighters try to protect Calif mountain town

AP

Two inmate hand crews, working for Cal-Fire walk up a trail to work on the Sheep fire, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009 in San Bernardino, Calif.

WRIGHTWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters launched an aggressive ground and air assault Sunday against a wind-fanned wildfire that erupted in the San Gabriel Mountains and threatened a popular resort community.

Crews spent the day cutting fire lines while battling erratic winds. Helicopters and air tankers, which were briefly grounded due to the weather, dropped water and retardant on the blaze, which doubled overnight to 3,500 acres.

Flames, chewing through chaparral and timber, advanced within a quarter-mile of the mountain resort community of Wrightwood, which was under mandatory evacuation. By Sunday afternoon, firefighters were cautiously optimistic about keeping the fire at bay.

"Firefighters have been able to beat the flames back," said John Miller, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service.

Miller stressed that the fight was far from over. Firefighters had to contend with shifting winds, which gusted up to 50 mph and occasionally dropping to zero.

The so-called Sheep fire destroyed three homes in remote canyons and was 10 percent surrounded.

Between 4,000 to 6,000 residents were ordered to evacuate, said Robin Prince, public information officer for the San Bernardino National Forest.

"The winds are quite a problem," Prince said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for San Bernardino County, freeing up state resources to battle the fire.

Erratic winds and low visibility temporarily grounded air support, but helicopters and air tankers took to the skies by Sunday morning aided by about 1,000 firefighters on the ground, some spraying fire retardant gel to structures.

The blaze broke out Saturday afternoon near Lytle Creek, a small community surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Fueled by thick timber and brush, the fire pushed over hills and canyons by fast-moving winds.

Evacuation centers were set up at a high school in nearby Rialto and at the Victorville Fairgrounds.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

In Arizona, some residents of the city of Williams remained away from their homes for another day as a prescribed burn that grew out of control threatened the town known as the "Gateway to the Grand Canyon."

Punky Moore, a Kaibab National Forest spokeswoman, said the Twin Fire scorched about 1,000 acres, or more than 1 1/2 square miles, by Sunday morning. It was burning forest undergrowth and ponderosa pines on Bill Williams Mountain.

Adviser downplays threat of renewed al-Qaida haven

WASHINGTON (AP)—A top U.S. commander's public plea for more troops in Afghanistan prompted a mild rebuke Sunday from the White House national security adviser, as the administration heads into a second week of intensive negotiations over its evolving Afghan strategy.

Retired Gen. James Jones said that decisions on how best to stabilize Afghanistan and beat back the insurgency must extend beyond troop levels to development and governance. And the request by Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, for up to 40,000 more troops is just one of three key elements advisers must consider as they meet this week to plot the way ahead.

He added that it is "better for military advice to come up through the chain of command," rather than off a public stage, referring to McChrystal's speech in London last week making a case for more troops. But Jones also beat back suggestions that the open campaign could jeopardize the general's job.

Jones

McChrystal "is in it for the long haul," Jones said. "I don't think this is an issue."

Jones comments came amid growing government fissures over whether to send thousands of additional forces to the fight, and just hours after militant forces overwhelmed U.S. troops at two outposts near the Pakistan border, killing eight Americans.

Obama's senior advisers are set to meet twice this week to debate the Afghan strategy, juggling political pressure from the left to scale back combat troops with arguments from military leaders, including Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that additional forces are needed to secure the country and enable government and economic development advancements.

Government finds higher autism figure: 1 in 100

CHICAGO (AP)—Two new government studies indicate about 1 in 100 children have autism disorders—higher than a previous U.S. estimate of 1 in 150.

Greater awareness, broader definitions and spotting autism in younger children may explain some of the increase, federal health officials said.

"The concern here is that buried in these numbers is a true increase," said Dr. Thomas Insel, director of the National Institute of Mental Health. "We're going to have to think very hard about what we're going to do for the 1 in 100."

Figuring out how many children have autism is extremely difficult because diagnosis is based on a child's behavior, said Dr. Susan E. Levy of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics subcommittee on autism.

"With diabetes you can get a blood test," said Levy. "As of yet, there's no consistent biologic marker we can use to make the diagnosis of autism."

The new estimate would mean about 673,000 American children have autism. Previous estimates put the number at about 560,000.

One of the studies stems from the 2007 National Survey of Children's Health. The results were released Monday, and published in October's Pediatrics.

In that study, based on telephone surveys, parents reported about 1 in 91 children, ages 3 to 17, had autism, including milder forms such as Asperger's syndrome.

The other government estimate has not been formally released yet. But because of the new published findings, officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decided to announce Friday during an embargoed press briefing that their preliminary findings also show about 1 in 100 children have the disorders.

ON THE NET:

American Academy of Pediatrics: http://www.aap.org
CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/
HRSA: http://www.hrsa.gov/
Autism Speaks: http://www.autismspeaks.org/

Tenn. mom left to wonder when she'll see 4 kids

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A week ago, Maria Gurrolla was celebrating the birth of her fourth child. A blue yard sign announced: "IT'S A BOY!" She visited a local welfare office that helps low-income mothers.

Then an attacker posing as an immigration worker arrived at her home south of Nashville, stabbed the 30-year-old mother and snatched away her 4-day-old son. The newborn was found safe, but after a brief reunion, state officials took the baby away from Gurrolla again, along with her other three children.

Now Gurrolla is left to wonder when she might see any of them again. A judge will review the case this week to determine when Yair Anthony Carillo and his siblings—ages 3, 9, 11—can come home.

State officials say the children were taken into custody Saturday for safety reasons but have not offered details. A spokesman said a hearing must occur within three days of when the children were taken into state custody.

Tammy Renee Silas, 39, was arrested and charged with kidnapping. She waived her initial court appearance in Alabama on Saturday and is expected to be brought to Tennessee sometime this week, FBI spokesman Joel Siskovic said Sunday. She was appointed an attorney, but Siskovic didn't know the lawyer's name and the jail wouldn't release any information.

Asia

Schools hold class in tents after Indonesia quake

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—Hundreds of children went back to class Monday in schools set up in tents in Indonesia's earthquake zone to get counseling on the loss of loved ones and homes, as authorities tried to restore normalcy after the disaster.

UNICEF provided tents and basic supplies for schools in three of 10 districts along the western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island that was hit by Wednesday's 7.6 magnitude temblor—likely to have killed thousands.

Among more than 180,000 buildings destroyed or badly damaged are hundreds of schools, Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency has said.

The resumption of classes was largely symbolic, giving just a few hundred children an opportunity to meet with teachers and receive counseling to process the trauma of recent days, including the death of relatives and being made homeless.

"The government has called for classes to resume as soon as possible so they can create some normalcy," said Amson Simbolon, an education officer for UNICEF, as math classes began for around 300 students at one badly-damaged school in hard-hit city of Padang.

The agency has provided 15 tents, each able to fit 50-60 children, and is shipping another 220 by boat from the capital, Jakarta, he said.

"Many school are damaged and the situation is bad," he said.

There is no clear word on the death toll. The United Nations put the figure at 1,100. The government earlier said 715 were dead and 3,000 were missing. But it revised the figure Sunday to 603 confirmed killed and 960 missing, presumably dead.

Among the missing are more than 600 who were buried alive in landslides in four villages in the hills of Padang Pariaman district. The victims included 200 to 300 guests at a wedding party in Jumanak village.

The restaurant where the party was being held was damaged but largely intact. A slice of the green wedding cake lay untouched on a plate, covered with flies. The guests were apparently killed when they ran outside as the ground began to tremble but were swept away by the landslide 40 yards (meters) away.

Iseh, a 15-year-old boy, said his sister, Ichi, was the bride. She, the groom and most of the guests were killed.

He said Ichi, 19, had come back to the village for her wedding.

"When the landslide came, the party had just finished. I heard a big boom of the avalanche. I ran outside and saw the trees fall down," Iseh, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, told The Associated Press.

"I tried to get in front of the house with my brothers. We were so afraid. Landslides started coming from all directions. I just ran and then I waited," he said.

AP

Chief Caporal Julien Mille of a French fire rescue team clears debris in the Pulau Karam college in the Sumatran Island city of Pedang, Indonesia, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009.

Traditions fade as China settles nomads in towns

GENHE CITY, China (AP)—Herding reindeer and hunting bears and boars in the forests on Siberia's fringe was Gu Gejun's life. Now his rifle has been confiscated, and the only reindeer he herds are in an urban tourist park.

China has moved most of the small Ewenki ethnic group from the steppe to the city, giving its members better access to medical services, education and jobs but, inevitably, changing their traditions.

They are among more than 700,000 nomadic herders—mostly Tibetans, Mongols and Kazaks in western China—the government has resettled since 2000.

About 60 Ewenki families live here in a Finnish-designed gated community of spacious sloped-roof wooden homes in orderly rows. They have televisions and washing machines. Across the street a teepee-like tent houses an exhibit on how the Ewenki used to live. Nearby, a dozen reindeer graze in a cleared patch of forest, watched over by Gu, a 37-year-old man with the chiseled looks of a movie star.

"Our lifestyle has been affected, because we Ewenki are born hunters," he said. "From older generations to younger generations we used to live on hunting. It's in our blood."

Gu had to turn over his semiautomatic rifle when he was resettled six years ago. He still remembers the model number engraved on it—62684—though he cannot remember the one on his government ID card. "When we go into the mountains and talk about guns we just cry," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai train derails, killing 8 people

BANGKOK (AP)—A train derailed during heavy rains Monday near the coastal Thai city of Hua Hin, killing at least eight people and injuring 54 others, officials said. The train jumped the tracks before dawn near the popular resort on the Gulf of Thailand during a trip from the southern city of Trang to the capital, Bangkok, said Chatree Charoencheewakun, director of the Emergency Medical Institute of Thailand. Chatree said eight people were killed and that the 54 injured had been rushed to nearby hospitals. All of the victims were Thais, said Police Lt. Col. Udom Chainoom.

Report: Seized NKorean ship allowed to leave India

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's navy said Sunday that a Pakistan-bound North Korean ship would be allowed to leave Indian waters after a search of the vessel yielded "nothing incriminatory," news reports said. The ship had been detained near Calicut port in southwestern India two days ago after it dropped anchor in Indian waters without permission, Press Trust of India said. North Korean ships have in the past been accused of clandestinely ferrying nuclear materials, missile parts and arms. The ship was inspected by a joint team of the Indian Navy, coast guard, intelligence agencies and port authorities, navy spokesman Roy Frances said.

SKorea refuses North's demand to return defectors

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has demanded South Korea repatriate a group of 11 North Koreans who defected by sea last week, but the South does not intend to return them, the Unification Ministry said Sunday. The 11 crossed into southern waters off the divided peninsula's east coast aboard a small barge early Thursday evening. The North sent a message—first on Friday, then again on Sunday—demanding the South return all the 11 defectors, the ministry said in a statement. South Korea responded that all of the defectors have expressed their desire to resettle in the South.

Billions in US aid never reached Pakistan army

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The United States has long suspected that much of the billions of dollars it has sent Pakistan to battle militants has been diverted to the domestic economy and other causes, such as fighting India.

Now the scope and longevity of the misuse is becoming clear: Between 2002 and 2008, while al-Qaida regrouped, only $500 million of the $6.6 billion in American aid actually made it to the Pakistani military, two army generals tell The Associated Press.

The account of the generals, who asked to remain anonymous because military rules forbid them from speaking publicly, was backed up by other retired and active generals, former bureaucrats and government ministers.

At the time of the siphoning, Pervez Musharraf, a Washington ally, served as both chief of staff and president, making it easier to divert money intended for the military to bolster his sagging image at home through economic subsidies.

"The army itself got very little," said retired Gen. Mahmud Durrani, who was Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. under Musharraf. "It went to things like subsidies, which is why everything looked hunky-dory. The military was financing the war on terror out of its own budget."

Generals and ministers say the diversion of the money hurt the military in very real ways:

■ Helicopters critical to the battle in rugged border regions were not available. At one point in 2007, more than 200 soldiers were trapped by insurgents in the tribal regions without a helicopter lift to rescue them.

■ The limited night vision equipment given to the army was taken away every three months for inventory and returned three weeks later.

-Equipment was broken, and training was lacking. It was not until 2007 that money was given to the Frontier Corps, the frontline force, for training.

The details on misuse of American aid come as Washington again promises Pakistan money. Legislation to triple general aid to Pakistan cleared Congress last week. The legislation also authorizes "such sums as are necessary" for military assistance to Pakistan, upon several conditions. The conditions include certification that Pakistan is cooperating in stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons, that Pakistan is making a sustained commitment to combating terrorist groups and that Pakistan security forces are not subverting the country's political or judicial processes.

Lavish welcome for Chinese premier in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—China's premier was given a gala welcome to Pyongyang on Sunday by North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, bolstering indications that the North is preparing to rejoin talks over its nuclear weapons programs.

Kim greeted Wen Jiabao personally at the city's airport, embracing him on a red carpet and standing beside him as a military band played their country's respective national anthems. Wen was then driven into the tightly controlled capital in an open-topped car as residents lining the streets danced, waved bunches of flowers, and shouted greetings in unison.

The lavish welcome was a rare honor for a non-head of state, underscoring the importance the North places on its communist neighbors and offering a strong indication that it is planning to re-engage its negotiating partners after boycotting talks while threatening nuclear war and conducting nuclear and missile tests.

Although Wen's three-day visit is officially being held to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations, analysts say they doubt he would have agreed to the trip without assurances of new talks.

Kim has reportedly expressed a willingness to engage in "bilateral and multilateral talks," although it's unclear if that indicates a willingness to rejoin stalled six-nation disarmament talks that also involve the U.S., Japan, South Korea and Russia.

China hosts the talks and continues to promote them as the best forum for dealing with the issue. Pyongyang, however, is believed to favor direct negotiations with the United States.

At a later meeting with North Korean Prime Minister Kim Yong Il, Wen repeated China's position that a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula is in everybody's best interest and pledged to strengthen contacts with Pyongyang on the matter, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Kim responded by saying the North had "never given up" on denuclearization and wished to achieve it through "bilateral and multilateral dialogue," CCTV said. The report made no mention of any solid commitment to rejoin talks.

During his visit, Wen is overseeing a series of agreements on trade and other bilateral issues, will meet with top leaders, and attend events commemorating historical ties.

World

Head of UN nuclear watchdog sees Iran cooperation

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The visiting head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog set Oct. 25 as the date for his inspectors to check Iran's newly revealed uranium enrichment site and struck an upbeat note Sunday, saying Tehran's confrontation with the West is shifting gears to more cooperation and transparency.

Though the United Nations has no "concrete proof" of an ongoing nuclear weapons program, the chief of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said he has "concerns about Iran's future intentions."

The inspection of the site and the outcome of more nuclear talks later this month with the United States and its allies will be crucial in determining the direction of the six-year standoff over Iran's nuclear activities.

"I see that we are at a critical moment. I see that we are shifting gears from confrontation into transparency and cooperation," ElBaradei said at a news conference in Tehran with Iran's top nuclear official.

His visit followed a week of intense diplomatic activity surrounding Iran's nuclear program, set off by the revelation that Tehran had been secretly constructing a new uranium enrichment plant just north of the holy city of Qom. On Thursday, Iran and six world powers put nuclear talks back on track at a landmark session near Geneva that included the highest-level bilateral contact with the U.S. in years.

President Barack Obama's national security adviser said Sunday that Washington was also pleased with the level of cooperation from Iran.

"The fact that Iran came to the table and seemingly showed some degree of cooperation, I think, is a good thing," James Jones said on CNN's "State of the Union" program.

"But this is not going to be an open-ended process. ... We, the world community, want to be satisfied within a short period of time," Jones added. "So it's not going to be extended discussions that we're going to have before we draw our conclusions to what their real intent is. But for now, I think things are moving in the right direction."

France's foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, also talked of a "wind of medium optimism." He said "something happened" at Thursday's talks in Switzerland and "we no longer want to talk of sanctions."

ElBaradei was in Iran to set up the U.N. inspection of the enrichment facility near Qom.

The site sparked serious concern, in part because its location next to a military base and partly inside a mountain adds to suspicions that Iran's nuclear program could have a military dimension. Obama, who accuses Iran of seeking to keep the site hidden for years before notifying the IAEA about it, has said Tehran's actions "raised grave doubts" about its promise to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only.

AP

Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, attends a joint press conference with the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Ali Akbar Salehi, unseen, in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009.

Stem cell pioneers among Nobel Prize candidates

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—Two Canadian scientists whose discovery of stem cells has paved the way for controversial research could be candidates for the 2009 Nobel Prize in medicine, the winners of which will be announced Monday.

Ernest McCulloch and James Till won the prestigious Lasker Award in 2005 and experts say they could also be among the front-runners for a Nobel for their early 1970's identification of the regenerative cells. Many winners of the Lasker Award—often dubbed "America's Nobel"—go on to win Nobel Prizes.

Given their special abilities, stem cells offer the possibility to replace damaged cells, tissues and maybe organs to treat diseases such as Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, or rheumatoid arthritis.

ON THE NET

Nobel Foundation:
http://nobelprize.org

Growing stem cells from human eggs has long been a controversial issue, but in a recent breakthrough scientists have managed to avoid the ethical quandaries by making human stem cells from ordinary skin cells.

Science writer Karin Bojs of Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter, who has stood out as a leading Nobel guesser over the years, included Till and McCulloch among her candidates for the prize this year.

Other potential winners include long-standing U.S. hopefuls Elizabeth Blackburn, Carol Greider and Jack Szostak for their enzyme research. The trio's discovery of the telomerases enzyme set the stage for research suggesting that cancer cells use telomerase to sustain their uncontrolled growth.

Abbas faces uproar over deferred war crimes vote

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Engulfed by domestic outrage, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rushed Sunday to limit the fallout from his decision to suspend efforts to have Israeli officials prosecuted for war crimes over last winter's military offensive in Gaza.

The decision set off a wave of condemnation, not just from his Islamic militant Hamas rivals, but also Palestinian human rights groups, intellectuals and commentators. Leading members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and even Abbas' own Fatah movement quickly distanced themselves, saying they had been taken by surprise.

In an attempt to deflect the anger, Abbas announced Sunday he would have a low-level committee look into the decision-making process. It was not clear whether Abbas himself would come under scrutiny.

The U.S. exerted pressure to win a deferral on the war crimes allegations, Israeli and Palestinian officials confirmed, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the content of closed-door meetings. The goal appeared to be to keep the hope of renewed Mideast negotiations alive.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned last week that pursuing the war crimes charges would deal a deadly blow to efforts to restart peace talks.

At issue is the fate of a U.N. report that accused both Israel and Hamas of committing war crimes during Israel's three week offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers in December and January. Late last week, the U.N. Human Rights Council considered a resolution to send the report to the U.N. General Assembly for possible action. Instead, Palestinian diplomats said Friday they would agree to delay the vote until March. With the Palestinians out of the picture, Arab and Muslim states did not take the case further.

Socialists trounce conservatives in Greek election

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's Socialists trounced the governing conservatives in a landslide election Sunday, with voters angered by scandals and a faltering economy ousting Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis halfway through his second term.

Humbled by his New Democracy party's worst electoral performance ever, Karamanlis, 53, resigned as its leader and said a new chief is needed for the party founded by his late uncle Constantine Karamanlis 35 years ago.

George Papandreou, 57, now follows in the footsteps of his father, Andreas Papandreou—who founded his Panhellenic Socialist Movement party, or PASOK—and grandfather and namesake George Papandreou, both of whom served several terms as prime ministers.

"We bear a great responsibility to change the course of the country. ... We know that we can make it," Papandreou, a former foreign minister, told jubilant supporters lighting flares and waving PASOK flags depicting the party's symbol of a green rising sun outside his party headquarters in central Athens.

"I know the potential of the country very well, a potential being drowned by corruption, favoritism, lawlessness and waste," Papandreou said.

"We must all believe again we can succeed ... we cannot waste a single day."

WORLD BRIEFS

Britain's new Supreme Court swings into action

LONDON (AP)—Britain's most powerful judges take up their first case this week with new robes, new titles, a new office, and—some argue—more power. Monday marks the hearing of the first case by Britain's new Supreme Court, a group of 12 justices who were until recently known as the Law Lords. The justices used to make their rulings from the red benches of the stately House of Lords. They now sit across the street at London's faux-medieval Middlesex Guildhall, at a simple crescent table, on a carpet designed by Peter Blake - the artist behind the cover of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album. Although in most ways the changes are cosmetic, the removal of the nation's highest court from the legislature is meant to emphasize Britain's separation of powers. The Supreme Court building faces Britain's Houses of Parliament, the Treasury building and Westminster Cathedral across the open space of Parliament Square.

UN: Russia must adapt to shrinking population

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's population has fallen by 6.6 million since 1993, despite the influx of millions of immigrants, a United Nations report said Monday, and by 2025 the country could lose a further 11 million people. The result could be labor shortages, an aging population and slower economic growth, the U.N. said. Recent Kremlin efforts to reward women for having more babies have caused a surge in the birth rate, the report said, but won't make much difference in the long term. It urged Russia to reduce its high mortality rate—similar to that in parts of sub-Saharan Africa—through reform of its public health system and by encouraging lifestyle changes—especially a reduction in alcohol consumption.

Somalia president condemns Minn. terror recruiting

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—The president of Somalia on Sunday denounced the recruiting of young men from Minnesota's huge Somali community for terrorist activity in his war-ravaged homeland, and said he plans to work with the U.S. government to bring those still alive back home. President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed spoke with The Associated Press while visiting the Minneapolis area, where authorities believe as many as 20 young Somali men—possibly recruited by a vision of jihad to fight—returned to the impoverished nation over the last two years. At least three have died in Somalia, including one who authorities believe was the first American suicide bomber. Three others have pleaded guilty in the U.S. to terror-related charges.

Overdrive

2010 FORD MUSTANG PREMIUM V-6 CONVERTIBLE

Dream Machine vs NY Nightmare

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK—Fantasy is a holistic thing. It requires serendipitously cooperative elements to be believed, enjoyed and remembered. Consider the matter of driving convertibles.

By their very nature, convertibles are dream machines. You can drop their tops on a sunny day and commune with nature as you drive. It's the sun on your face, wind in your hair, the great outdoors. It's why we buy convertibles.

And it's why convertibles should not be driven in this city on an August afternoon in the middle of rush hour—certainly not with the top down.

I don't know what I was thinking. Perhaps it was that I had longed so desperately to lower the roof of the 2010 Ford Mustang Premium V-6 convertible in my possession. It was a tightly hewn thing with a gunmetal gray body, black vinyl top and tan interior. There was something retro about it, something 1960s funky.

It was the kind of car that makes aging men foolish, beckons them to masquerade as someone other than themselves, someone younger, more hip. I wanted to drop its top so badly! But it rained every day on my drive from Virginia to Cornwall, N.Y., and to many points in between and beyond—until the day I came here.

The sun shone prettily. Its actual heat was a distant thought. The air seemed clear. I imagined it to be crisp. But that was before the sun's heat became reality, made more intense by beaming down on a hatless head in a topless car. It was difficult to be or look cool under the circumstance, especially with sweat dripping down my forehead into my eyes.

The Mustang convertible is one of the best-loved, better-known convertibles in the U.S. auto market. It is rear-wheel drive with four seats, including two rear seats that can accommodate average adult bodies on trips of 50 miles or so—long enough to take a ride to the beach, dinner or a movie, and to do so in reasonable comfort.

But there is a Mustang pecking order that intrudes on fantasy. My Mustang convertible was equipped with Ford's decent but decidedly workaday 210-horsepower, 4-liter V-6 engine. I liked it, and I suppose most ordinary drivers would like it as well. But Mustang aficionados sneer at the car.

To many Mustang lovers, a Mustang that isn't a Mustang GT with a big, romping 4.6-liter, 315-horsepower V-8 engine and a robust, baritone exhaust note isn't really a Mustang. And please don't try telling them that you are driving the V-6 because you are concerned about the environment and are trying to save fuel, which neither the Mustang V-6 nor the V-8 does a particularly good job of anyway. They will laugh at you.

Or worse, if you are silly enough to tool along the FDR or Harlem River Drive here with the top down on a V-6 Mustang convertible on a hot August afternoon in the middle of rush hour, with cars and trucks madly whizzing about you, with particulate matter of seemingly all sorts flying into your face and hair, savvy New York motorists will tailgate you, shake their heads, laugh and shout insults, including a nastily hurled "Visitor!"

That hurt.

"That's not even a GT!" another motorist shouted. "You stylin' and profilin' in junk!" Well, the Mustang Premium V-6 convertible isn't junk. It's a fun car, an enjoyable car, one that supports the fantasy of open-air motoring in acceptable fashion. But you just have to know when to lower its top to partake of what it has to offer. I didn't. I do now.

AP

The 2010 Mustang Premium V-6 convertible is an affordable fantasy car gifted with some utility, as represented by usable rear seats. It is slightly more fuel efficient but decidedly less prestigious than the Mustang GT V-8.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BOTTOM LINE
The 2010 Mustang Premium V-6 convertible is an affordable fantasy car gifted with some utility, as represented by usable rear seats. It is slightly more fuel efficient but decidedly less prestigious than the Mustang GT V-8.

COMPLAINTS
That V-6 engine remains a bit of a gas hog. I averaged 21 miles per gallon, combined city and highway. I know Ford can do better. When do we get an EcoBoost Mustang, Ford?

RIDE, ACCELERATION, HANDLING
Ride is excellent, thanks to some improved suspension work in the 2010 Mustang. Handling gets good marks, too. Acceleration is adequate.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2010 Mustang convertible is a mid-size, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive car with a semi-automatic (manually operated headliner latches) vinyl convertible top and seats for four people.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It's a Mustang. But you'll get more attention in the Mustang GT.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
The model driven for this column was equipped with a 4-liter V-6 engine that develops 210 hp at 5,300 rpm and 240 ft-lbs of torque at 3,500 rpm. It was linked to an optional five-speed automatic transmission. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for four people. Luggage capacity is 10 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 16 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
An unimpressive 16 mpg city and 24 mpg highway.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes, electronic stability and traction control, side air bags.

PRICE
Base price on the 2010 Ford Mustang Premium V-6 is $28,995. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $26,671. Price as tested is $30,840, including $995 for the five-speed automatic transmission and an $850 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $28,387. A $1,000 consumer rebate is available. Prices are sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of *The Washington Post*.

Toyota plugs in to new battery-powered Prius

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Toyota Motor Corp. has joined the growing ranks of automakers planning to bring advanced battery-powered vehicles to showrooms in the near future.

The Japanese automaker said it plans to have a plug-in version of its popular Prius hybrid on sale in the U.S. within three years.

Toyota had earlier announced its intention to bring 150 plug-in Priuses to the U.S. by the end of this year, but they are going to be doled out to vehicle fleets in what amounts to a large-scale road test.

Friday's announcement by Irv Miller, a group vice president for Toyota's U.S. sales unit, was the first time Toyota has set a date for making the plug-in version of the Prius available to consumers.

Toyota will have plenty of company. General Motors Co. plans to have its Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid in showrooms by the end of 2010, while Ford Motor Co. plans to have an all-electric version of its Focus compact on the market by 2011.

BMW and Nissan have electric vehicles planned for the U.S. market by 2012, and various niche manufacturers such as Tesla Motors are developing plug-in hybrids or electric-only vehicles.

In his remarks, Miller was more restrained in describing the sales prospects for a plug-in version of the Prius than some of Toyota's rivals have been when discussing their advanced-powertrain cars. That caution is a result of the consumer response in California of Toyota's battery-powered RAV4 sport-utility vehicles early in this decade, he said.

"We had a lot of people raising their hands for the RAV4 EV," he said. "As soon as we made them ready for sale, that line evaporated very quickly."

The standard Prius hybrid, which has an EPA rating of 50 miles per gallon in combined city-highway driving, combines an electric motor with a conventional gasoline engine to achieve improved fuel economy.

A plug-in version would have more powerful batteries that would allow the car to travel a certain distance—perhaps as much as 10 miles, although Toyota has been unclear on this point—on electric power alone. The batteries could be recharged by plugging the car into a household outlet overnight.

Life & Style

Carrie Fisher journeys through showbiz celebrity

NEW YORK (AP)—Confession may be good for the soul, but does it make for good theater?

Yes, indeed. Especially when the author and star is Carrie Fisher, daughter of showbiz royalty, "Star Wars" icon, manic-depressive, alcoholic and astute observer of the Hollywood scene.

Fisher is a raconteur in the best sense of the word. She knows how to tell a story. And "Wishful Drinking," her hilariously perceptive journey through a world of celebrity and self-destruction, is chock-full of funny, fascinating tales.

It helps that Fisher has enormous rapport with the audience at Broadway's Studio 54, where her autobiographical one-woman show opened Sunday.

Prowling the stage, the performer banters effortlessly with theatergoers, drawing them into her memories about what it was like to grow up as the offspring of film star Debbie Reynolds and '50s pop singer Eddie Fisher, who for a time were America's sweethearts—a title that didn't last long after Eddie Fisher left Reynolds for the newly widowed Elizabeth Taylor.

The 52-year-old Carrie Fisher, who looks and sounds a bit like her perennially perky mother, is unsparing in her analysis of those scandal-plagued years. But, more important, she is equally tough in examining herself, a complicated woman trying to deal with demons of her own making.

Nevertheless, "Wishful Drinking" produces large laughs. Fisher's jaundiced view of the luxurious movieland lifestyle is priceless. She grew up in material splendor if not exactly emotional comfort. She takes us on a tour of her gilded childhood and her parents' various marriages, particularly her father's, which seemed to get more convoluted as the years went on.

AP

This undated picture provided by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows Carrie Fisher in a scene from her one-woman show, "Wishful Drinking." The Roundabout Theatre Company production is playing at Broadway's Studio 54 in New York.

One of the evening's more entertaining segments is entitled Hollywood 101, demonstrating the interlocking of many of these relationships, almost to the point, Fisher suggests, of inbreeding.

The seeds of Fisher's resentful family dealings can be found in the fame her mother and father enjoyed—and thrived upon.

"My parents had this incredibly vital relationship with an audience, you know, like with muscle and blood," she explains. "This was the main competition that I had for their attention, an audience. You know who you are."

But then Fisher's own marriages also were of a volatile nature—her union with singer-songwriter Paul Simon, of Simon and Garfunkel fame, and then with superagent Bryan Lourd, who left her for a man.

Fisher had her own brush with massive celebrity in the 1977 sci-fi fantasy classic "Star Wars," playing the movie's earnest heroine, Princess Leia, a young woman best known for her cinnamon-bun hairdo. And, yes, Fisher does don a Leia wig in "Wishful Drinking" for a few good chuckles.

Fisher seems to have made peace with the role—and even with "Star Wars" director George Lucas, who, she says, provided her and co-stars Mark Hamill (who played Luke Skywalker) and Harrison Ford (Han Solo) "with enough fan mail and even a small merry band of stalkers keeping us entertained for the rest of our unnatural lives—not to mention identities that will follow us to our respective graves like a vague, exotic smell."

"Wishful Drinking," which first began touring the country in 2006, may teeter on a bit too long. Director Tony Taccone could have snipped a bit here and there, particularly the "Star Wars" mentions, which seem to pop up persistently.

But no matter. If this is theater as therapy for its author, so be it. "Wishful Drinking" is as affecting as it is good fun, with humor helping its leading lady sort out all her problems on stage.

Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa dies aged 74

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa, the "voice of Latin America" whose music inspired opponents of South America's brutal military regimes and led to her forced exile in Europe, died Sunday, her family said. She was 74.

Her remains lay in state at the National Congress, where thousands of people—many with flowers or Argentine flags—lined up to pay respects to one of the region's most iconic voices.

"She was the best ambassador the country ever had," said Clara Suarez, 63, holding a bouquet of white flowers outside the Congress.

Sosa was best known for signature tunes such as "Gracias a la Vida" ("Thanks to Life") and "Si se Calla el Cantor" ("If the Singer is Silenced"). She had been in the hospital for more than two weeks with liver problems and had since been suffering from progressive kidney failure and cardiac arrest.

Her latest album, "Cantora 1," is nominated for three prizes in next month's Latin Grammy awards in Las Vegas, including album of the year and best folkloric album.

Affectionately dubbed "La Negra" or "The Black One" by fans for her mixed Indian and distant French ancestry, Sosa was born July 9, 1935, to a poor, working-class family in the sugarcane country of northwest Tucuman province.

Early on she felt the allure of popular traditions and became a teacher of folkloric dance.

At the age of 15, friends impressed by her talent encouraged Sosa to enter a local radio contest under the pseudonym "Gladys Osorio." She won a two-month contract with the broadcaster—the first of many accolades over a career that continued until her final days.

"I didn't choose to sing for people," Sosa said in a recent interview on Argentine television. "Life chose me to sing."

By the 1970s she was recognized as one of the South American troubadours who gave rise to the "nuevo cancionero" (New Songbook) movement—singers including Chile's Victor Jara and Violeta Parra, Argentina's Victor Heredia and Uruguay's Alfredo Zitarrosa who mixed leftist politics with poetic musings critical of the ruling juntas and their iron-fisted curtailment of civil liberties and human rights abuses.

In this Oct. 26, 2007 file photo, Argentina's famed folk singer Mercedes Sosa performs in concert at Ruminahui Coliseum in in Quito, Ecuador.

AP

In 1972, Sosa released the socially and politically charged album "Hasta la Victoria" ("Till Victory"). Her sympathies with communist movements and support for leftist parties attracted close scrutiny and censorship at a time when blending politics with music was a dangerous occupation—Jara was tortured and shot to death by soldiers following Chile's 1973 military coup.

In 1979, a year after being widowed from her second husband, Sosa was detained along with an entire audience of about 200 students while singing in La Plata, a university city hit hard by military rule.

"I remember when they took me prisoner," she told The Associated Press in late 2007. "I was singing for university kids who were in the last year of veterinary school. It wasn't political."

She walked free 18 hours later under international pressure and after paying a $1,000 fine, but was forced to leave her homeland.

"I knew I had to leave," Sosa told the AP. "I was being threatened by the Triple A (a right-wing death squad that terrorized suspected dissidents during the 1976-83 military junta). The people from the navy, the secret services were following me."

With three suitcases and a handbag she headed to Spain, then France, becoming a wandering minstrel. Her pianist and musical director, Popi Spatocco, said exile was exceedingly harsh for a woman who loved Argentina.

Sosa returned home to wide acclaim in 1982 in the final months of the dictatorship, which she would ultimately outlive by a quarter-century.

The following year she released the eponymous album "Mercedes Sosa," which contained several tracks considered among her greatest hits: "Un Son para Portinari" and "Maria Maria"; along with "Inconsciente Colectivo" by Charly Garcia; "La Maza" and "Unicornio" by Silvio Rodriguez; "Corazon Maldito" by Violeta Parra; and "Me Yoy pa'l Mollar," together with Margarita Palacios.

Late in life, with South America's military regimes consigned to the dustbin of history, Sosa remained relevant by tapping powerful, universal emotions, singing about stopping war and ending poverty, about finding love and losing loved ones.

"There's no better example of artistic honesty," her nephew and fellow singer Chucho Sosa said in 2007. "Her songs reflects how she is in life."

Sosa won Latin Grammy Awards for Best Folk Album for "Misa Criolla" in 2000, "Acustico" in 2003 and "Corazon Libre" in 2006.

She also acted in films such as "El Santo de la Espada" ("The Knight of the Sword"), about Argentine independence hero Gen. Jose de San Martin.

All told, Sosa recorded more than 70 albums; the latest, a double CD titled "Cantora 1" and "Cantora 2," is a collection of folkloric classics performed with contemporary Latin American and Spanish stars such as Shakira, Fito Paez, Julieta Venegas, Joaquin Sabina, Lila Downs and Calle 13.

The vigil will continue until midday Monday, her brother Orlando Sosa said, then her remains will be cremated.

The city of Buenos Aires suspended all artistic activities Sunday, including postponing celebrations of the fact that the tango was declared part of the world's cultural heritage by the United Nations last week.

Will women viewers turn away from Letterman?

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman should probably care what women think about him—and not just his wife.

His back to back scandals this year—a crude joke about Sarah Palin's daughter and revelations through an alleged blackmail attempt by a CBS producer that Letterman had sexual relationships with "Late Show" staff members—are likely to hit his reputation hardest with women.

There are still many unknowns following Letterman's startling admission last week: How many women were involved? Did the relationships end well? Did women feel pressured by the boss' advances, or were they happily consensual? Did any other staffers feel the way to get ahead was through Letterman's bed? Are women who did not have intimate relations with Letterman upset that those who did may have gotten special treatment or career advances? Is anyone talking to lawyers?

All could determine whether Letterman is significantly damaged or if it's just a footnote to his career.

Certainly, it can't help when the New York Post blares on its front page: "Dirty Dave's Harem."

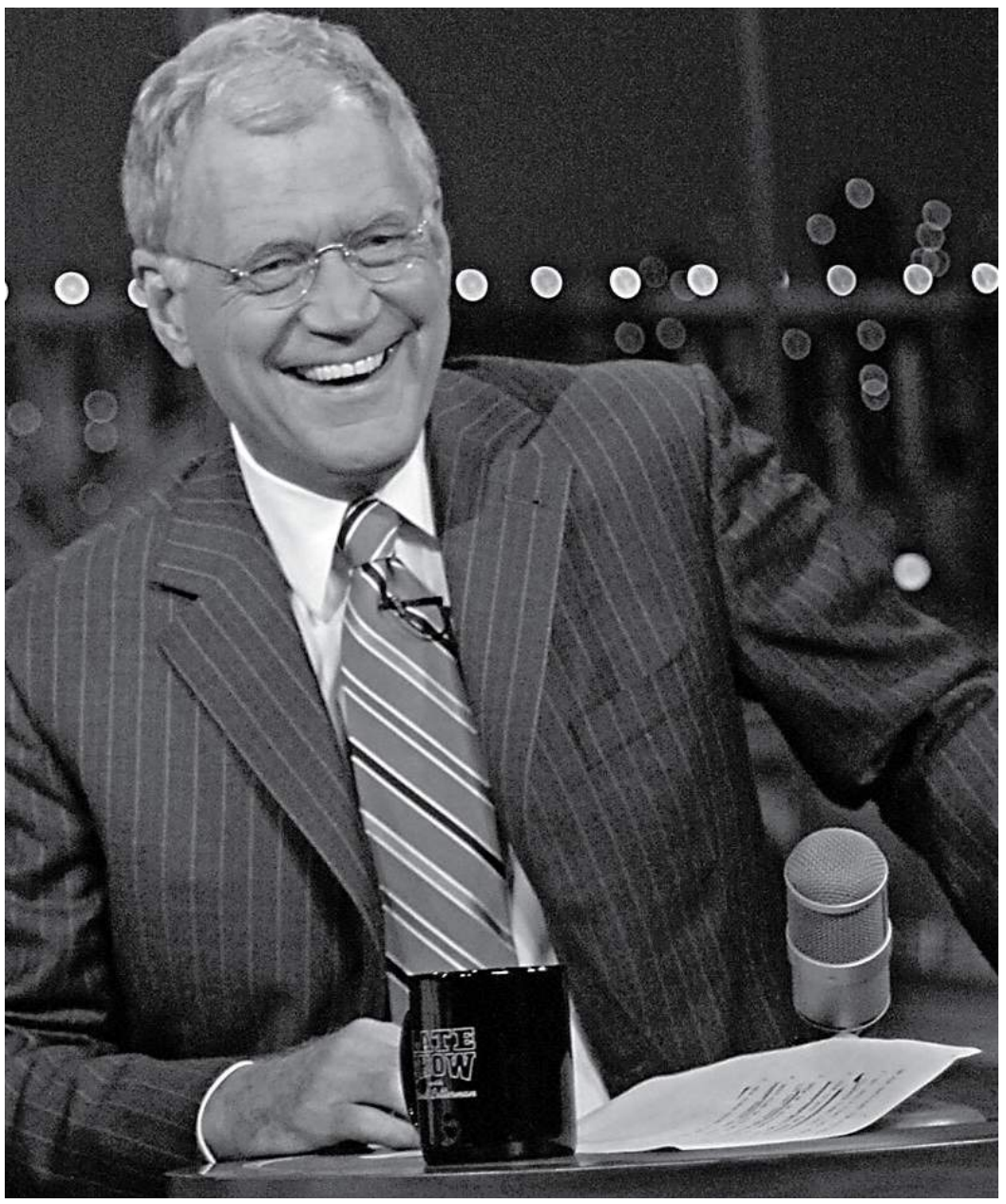
"It's very interesting. Men and women think very differently about this story," NBC News anchor Ann Curry said. "The men I've talked to think, `How could a person within your own company kind of betray you like this?' But the reaction I'm hearing from women is completely on the other end. They're saying, `How could you have affairs, multiple affairs, with members of your own staff and how does that create a fair and equal working environment?'"

Many women who work in television, and probably most other industries, can recall feeling pressured to do something with a man she works for, said Curry's colleague, Kathie Lee Gifford.

"I'm not saying David did that, but the details are yet to be discovered," she said. "They might have been very willing partners who initiated it. We don't know, but the minute we hear stories like that we go, `Uh-huh.'"

Letterman's prickly personality and sarcastic humor seem tailor-made for a young, male audience. But the facts tell a different story: Letterman's typical audience was 58 percent female last season, with an average age of just under 55, according to the Nielsen Co.

In other words, he should care very much whether women are disgusted by his behavior and reject his comedy as a result.



AP

In this image originally provided by CBS, David Letterman appears on the "Late Show with David Letterman," in this Oct. 8, 2007, file photo, in New York.

Letterman effectively seized control of his story the first night by establishing himself as a crime victim. The way he revealed his transgressions—by talking about the "terrible, terrible" and "creepy" things that he did before saying what they were—left enough dark thoughts running through viewers' minds that sex with consenting age staff members seemed mild as a result.

His television performance was judged more than his conduct. The Associated Press said in its headline that Letterman had created a "brilliant, unsettling hour of TV." Even Linda Stasi of the New York Post, whose gleeful headline writers couldn't resist "Laid Nights With David Letterman," said the talk show host's "explanation-as-monologue was nothing short of brilliant."

Many of Letterman's fans seem to recognize he's an oddball in real life, a man who radiates unapproachability, keeps his studio at freezer temperatures and is prone to constant brooding about past failures (Jay Leno has already left the "Tonight" show, but Letterman still can't get over losing that gig to him in 1993). Sexual affairs? Seems normal by comparison.

While Letterman's representatives have released few details about the relationships, they have said they predate his marriage to Regina Lasko in March. The couple has a 5-year-old son.

"I don't really care who someone sleeps with as long as it's not coerced and as long as there's not some explicit or implicit promise of favors or the like," Kim Gandy, former president of the National Organization for Women, said. "It's another adult—it's not a minor. If that's all it is, he's a single guy and he had a fling."

But Gene Grabowski, an expert in crisis public relations for Levick Strategic Communications, said that after a couple of days, the extortion attempt will recede and viewers will focus on Letterman's behavior. Letterman said on Thursday that he doesn't plan to address the issue again. Grabowski said he needs to.

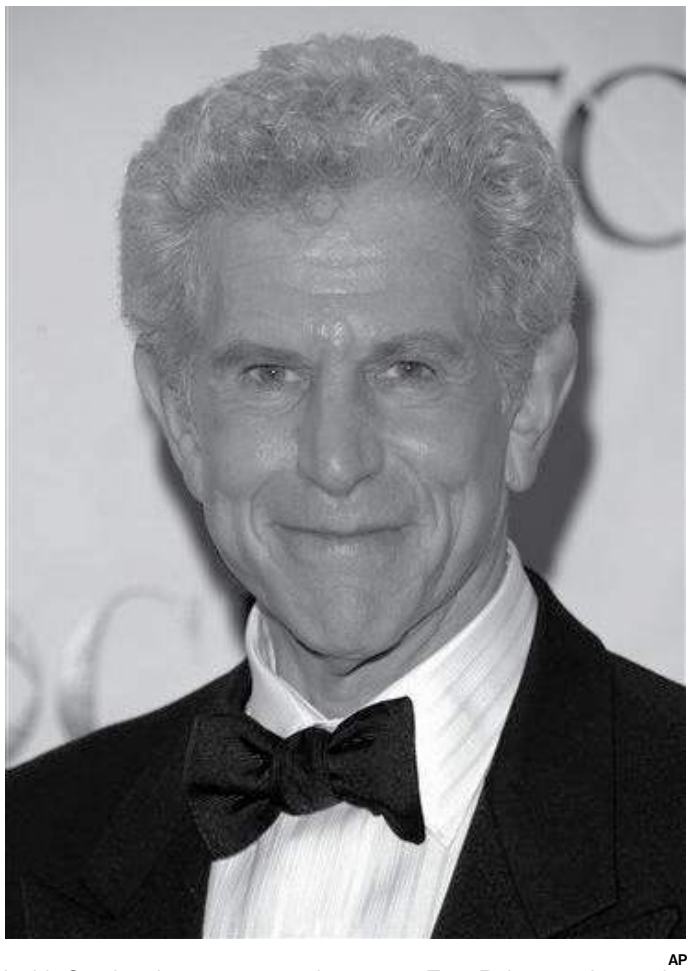
"People want to forgive David Letterman," he said. "People like David Letterman. But he has to do his part to make people want to support him, and that means apologize."

After Letterman's joke about Palin's daughter being "knocked up" by Alex Rodriguez fell horribly flat, he gave a relatively cursory explanation and called it a failed attempt at comedy. After a weekend's reflection, he came back to give a much stronger apology.

The latest mess comes at a time when Letterman is re-establishing himself as the dominant figure in late-night television. His "Late Show" is nearly must-see TV. Within the past two weeks, he has featured President Barack Obama, Madonna and a riveting personal scandal. The best Conan O'Brien could do was a concussion when a stunt went awry.

Yet the women in Letterman's audience may need some reassuring.

Broadway performance canceled when actor falls ill



AP

In this Sunday, June 15, 2008 photo, actor Tony Roberts arrives at the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—A preview performance of the Broadway revival of "The Royal Family" has been canceled after one of its stars became ill on stage.

Show spokesman Aaron Meier says the curtain came down shortly after the Sunday matinee began when actor Tony Roberts fell ill.

The 69-year-old Roberts has been hospitalized. St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center spokesman Jeff Jacomowitz tells The New York Times the actor is in stable condition.

Roberts is known for his roles in Woody Allen movies including "Annie Hall" and "Hannah and Her Sisters." He was last on Broadway in the 2007 musical "Xanadu" (ZAN'-uh-doo).

Meier said understudy Anthony Newfeld would take over Roberts' role at the Sunday evening performance of "The Royal Family," a comedy by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. The Manhattan Theatre Club production opens Thursday at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre.

'Crash' cast helps feed homeless in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The cast and crew of the TV series "Crash" have done a good deed for some of Albuquerque's homeless.

The series, which airs on the Starz network, has shot several scenes at the Noon Day Ministry center, so the cast and crew raised enough money to feed between 300 and 400 people at the downtown shelter on Saturday. The shelter usually can't afford to feed people on Saturdays.

Actor Ross McCall said he thought it would be a good way to give back to the community.

The cast is also running a clothing drive on the set to help the homeless.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In loving memory of

Remedio G. Muna

was born on August 2,1949 and
was called to her eternal rest by our
Heavenly Father on September 30, 2009

Date of viewing: October 7, 2009
Location and time of viewing: CHC- 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Garapan Kingdom Hall-11:00-12:00 noon

Pre-deceased by:
Father: Jose C. Muna
Mother: Carmen G. Muna
Brother: Juan G. Muna
Brother In-law: Herman T. Indalecio

Survived by:
Sisters
Maria M. Indalecio
Bernadita M. Sablan and David O. Sablan
Susana G. Muna
Ignacia M. Sablan and Pedro C. Sablan
Jacinta M. Lacy and Larry Lacy
Alfoncina M. Argu
Juanita M. Charfaurus and Richard Charfaurus

Brothers
Vicente G. Muna And Mrs. Muna, Xiankun Mong(Pam)
Bonifacio G. Muna
Sister In-law: Myrna Muna

After burial, funeral reception dinner will be served at Mr. David O. Sablan and Mrs. Bernadita M. Sablan in Koblerville Resident.

Fans feast on undead as 'Zombieland' opens to $25M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The undead were alive and well at movie theaters as Woody Harrelson's horror comedy "Zombieland" opened on top with $25 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Yet the general box office was less lively as a flurry of new wide releases did solid to ho-hum business. Overall Hollywood revenues came in at $113.4 million, down 4 percent from the same weekend last year.

Sony scored a one-two punch with "Zombieland" and the animated family tale "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," which took in $16.7 million, slipping to second-place after two weekends at No. 1. The movie raised its domestic total to $82.4 million after three weekends.

Mixing gory action with laughs, "Zombieland" teams Harrelson with Jesse Eisenberg, Abigail Breslin and Emma Stone as a band of humans fighting legions of undead - and taking a road trip to a supposedly zombie-free amusement park.

"What really clicked was the humor of it," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "Truly, there were points in this movie that were so funny, I thought I was going to throw up. I'm serious. It really is a blast."

Taking a big bite of the family audience with $12.5 million was a double-feature reissue of Disney's "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" in 3-D, which came in at No. 3. Playing for a limited two-week run, the double-feature sets the stage for the release of "Toy Story 3" in 3-D next year.

The Warner Bros. comedy "The Invention of Lying," with Ricky Gervais and Jennifer Garner, had a soft opening of $7.4 million, finishing at No. 4. Taking place in an alternate reality where everyone tells the truth, the movie stars co-director and co-writer Gervais, who plays a man that discovers how to profit by fibbing.

Fox Searchlight's roller-derby tale "Whip It" - featuring Ellen Page, Juliette Lewis and Drew Barrymore, who also directed - made a weak debut at No. 6 with $4.85 million. The movie casts "Juno" star Page as a beauty-pageant queen who shifts gears to become a roller-derby star.

Female crowds accounted for 70 percent of the audience for "Whip It," according to Fox Searchlight parent 20th Century Fox. Audiences and critics gave the movie high marks, so the studio is hoping it has a longer shelf life than its opening weekend would indicate.

"Like the story, the movie's an underdog, and we think audiences are going to continue to discover it," said Fox distribution executive Chris Aronson.

Tied for sixth-place with $4.85 million was Michael Moore's "Capitalism: A Love Story," which expanded nationwide after a week in limited release. The Overture Films documentary, Moore's exploration of the roots of the economic meltdown, raised its total to $5.3 million.

"Capitalism" played in just 962 theaters, compared to 3,036 for "Zombieland" and about 1,700 cinemas each for "Invention of Lying," "Whip It" and the "Toy Story" movies.

This was Moore's second-best nationwide debut, behind his 2004 sensation "Fahrenheit 9/11," which had a $23.9 million opening weekend.

Overture is counting on "Capitalism" to stick around for an extended box-office run, as did "Fahrenheit 9/11" and other Moore hits such as "Sicko" and "Bowling for Columbine."

"Where most movies are a two-week story, Michael's movies play for a long time," said Kyle Davies, Overture head of distribution.

In limited release, Joel and Ethan Coen's comic drama "A Serious Man" had a big opening with $251,510 in six theaters, averaging a whopping $41,918 per cinema. That compares to an $8,235 average in 3,036 theaters for "Zombieland."

Released by Focus Features, "A Serious Man" follows the domestic and professional troubles of a physics professor in a 1960s Midwest Jewish community.

1. ***"Zombieland,"*** $25 million.
2. ***"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,"*** $16.7 million.
3. ***"Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" in 3-D,*** $12.5 million.
4. ***"The Invention of Lying,"*** $7.4 million.
5. ***"Surrogates,"*** $7.3 million.
6 (tie). ***"Capitalism: A Love Story,"*** $4.85 million.
6 (tie). ***"Whip It,"*** $4.85 million.
8. ***"Fame,"*** $4.8 million.
9. ***"The Informant!"***, $3.8 million.
10. ***"Love Happens,"*** $2.8 million.

AP

Woody Harrelson's horror comedy "Zombieland" had a $25-million box office opening over the weekend.

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I Can Do Bad All By Myself

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13 T

Synopsis
When Madea, a pistol-packing grandma, catches sixteen-year-old Jennifer and her two younger brothers looting her home, she decides to take matters into her own hands and delivers the young delinquents to the only relative they have: their aunt April. A heavy-drinking nightclub singer who lives off of Raymond, her married boyfriend, April wants nothing to do with the kids. But her attitude begins to change when Sandino, a handsome Mexican immigrant looking for work, moves into April's basement room.

Fame

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:05	

Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG T

Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13 T

Synopsis
Set in a futuristic world where humans live in isolation and interact vicariously through surrogate robots. Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent who enlists the aid of his own surrogate to investigate the murder of the genius college student who invented the surrogates. As the case grows more complicated, however, the withdrawn detective discovers that in order to actually catch the killer he will have to venture outside the safety of his own home for the first time in many years, and enlists the aid of another agent (Radha Mitchell) in tracking his target down.

Pandorum

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R T

All About Steve

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13 T

And I Love You So

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR T

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13 T

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Peg Mullen, author of "Unfriendly Fire," dies

LA PORTE CITY, Iowa (AP)—Peg Mullen, an author and former Iowa farm wife who hounded the U.S. military to find the truth about her son's death in Vietnam, has died. She was 92.

Family members said Sunday that she passed away Friday at a nursing home in La Porte City.

Peg Mullen wrote the 1995 book "Unfriendly Fire: A Mother's Memoir" after her son Michael died at age 25 when a U.S. artillery shell fell short and killed him on Feb. 18, 1970, near the South Vietnamese village of Tu Chanh.

"This is the first book you've got from the family side of a Vietnam story," Mullen told The Associated Press in a 1995 interview before the book was released.

"All you've read everywhere is the blood and the guts," she said. "But you haven't had anything coming out of what went on as far as the family, as far as brothers and sisters and mothers and dads."

Almost from the day Mullen and her husband, Gene, who died in 1986, learned that Michael had been killed, she tried to get more information about their son's death from the U.S. military. Her full-page ad in The Des Moines Register protesting the war and marches in anti-war demonstrations put her on par with more notable protesters of the day.

Her other son, John Mullen, said Sunday that he doesn't know if his mother was ever satisfied with the information she tracked down, "but she came to terms with it."

"If there was one thing, she brought to the forefront the idea of friendly fire. It was a term that never got much play until that time," he said. "I think she'll be remembered as somebody who asked a lot of questions, somebody who wouldn't take a pat answer, somebody who would stand up for something she believed in. You need those types of people."

Mullen received many letters, phone calls and notes from other parents who had lost sons and from combat veterans who told her they knew and had served with Michael.

Her book includes 40 letters from Michael, along with an account of her conversation one night in 1989 with the man who told her he had fired the fatal shell. It also lambasts Norman Schwarzkopf, the Persian Gulf War general who was Michael's battalion commander in Vietnam.

The autobiography was a follow up to "Friendly Fire," a book by C.D.B. Bryan and a television movie of the same name that starred Carol Burnett and Ned Beatty.

According to the University of Iowa library's Iowa Women's Archives, Mullen was born in 1917 in Pocahontas, about 140 miles northwest of Des Moines. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Mullen also is survived by her daughters Patricia Hulting, of Des Moines, and Mary DeJana, of Kalispell, Mont., and her grandchildren.

Neighbors: Accused Andrews stalker kept to himself

WESTMONT, Ill. (AP)—The man accused of stalking ESPN reporter Erin Andrews kept his yard manicured, played golf and enjoyed cooking on a gas grill on a patio behind his $300,000 suburban Chicago town house.

It's the apparently normal life of Michael David Barrett, a 47-year-old insurance company employee, that made his arrest for allegedly secretly videotaping Andrews nude so upsetting, his neighbors said Sunday.

"I'm totally shocked," said David Wayne, 72, a retired corporate executive who lives several doors down from Barrett. "He looked absolutely normal—nothing distinguishing."

Barrett was being held in jail over the weekend after his arrest Friday at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. Investigators believe he recorded Andrews by aiming a cell phone camera through an altered peephole in the door of her hotel room.

Andrews, 31, worked the Auburn-Tennessee game for ESPN on Saturday night in Knoxville, Tenn. Before kickoff, she posed for photos with Tennessee donors who get to stand on the sideline.

She issued a statement after the arrest thanking FBI agents and federal prosecutors for their work and said she hoped the case will eventually help others.

In Westmont, a leafy, middle-class suburb about 20 miles west of Chicago lined with quaint, gas-lamp replica street lights, there did not appear to be anyone home Sunday at Barrett's two-story, two-garage house.

The housing development is favored by doctors, executives and retirees, many of whom don't have children, so people don't tend to get to know each other well as in other communities, said Dolores Shea, 79, head of the neighborhood association.

Barrett kept to himself, too, Shea said, and no one interviewed on his street Sunday could provide any details about his character or personal life. Shea said Barrett drove an expensive car, and she would often see him throwing golf clubs in his trunk.

Barrett appeared to live with a woman, said Shea, but she didn't know the woman's relationship to Barrett.

Shea said a "For Sale" sign was put up in Barrett's front lawn about two weeks ago. A real estate Web site set the price for the house at $299,000, and described the home as having three bedrooms, two baths and two fireplaces.

An FBI affidavit said Barrett specifically asked for a room next to Andrews at a Tennessee hotel where seven videos were likely taken, apparently through an altered peephole. An eighth video may have been shot at a Milwaukee hotel.

Barrett is accused of trying to sell videos of Andrews to celebrity Web site TMZ.com and posting them online.

A federal magistrate judge is expected to decide Monday whether Barrett should be returned to California as a prisoner or be freed on bail. He faces charges in Los Angeles, where TMZ is based, of interstate stalking. He faces up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine if convicted.

His lawyer, Rick Beuke, said he did not believe Barrett had so much as a traffic ticket on his record.

"He's as regular a guy as you'll ever meet—a great friend," said Beuke, who has known him for a decade. "I must have calls from 30 people wanting to know what they could do to help."

Beuke said Barrett has been divorced for some time and has children. The Combined Insurance Company of America confirmed that he was an employee who worked in sales management.

Several TV networks and newspapers had aired clips or printed screen grabs from the videos of Andrews in July. She has covered hockey, college football, college basketball and Major League Baseball for ESPN since 2004 and was named "sexiest sportscaster" by Playboy magazine in 2008 and 2009.

AP

ESPN's Erin Andrews reports from the sidelines during a NCAA college football game between Auburn and Tennessee Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 in Knoxville, Tenn. Auburn won 26-22.

Jamaican rapper Bounty Killer barred from Trinidad

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)—Authorities barred Jamaican rapper Bounty Killer from entering Trinidad for a weekend show where he was scheduled to appear, a concert promoter said Sunday. Verne Extavour, spokesman for Jacho Entertainment, told The Associated Press that Bounty Killer was turned away upon arrival and flew back to Jamaica.

Bounty Killer

No explanation was given, Extavour said. Immigration officials did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The last time Bounty Killer was in Trinidad, he was arrested on stage and charged with using obscene language. Authorities in Jamaica arrested him for the same reason during last year's Reggae Sumfest.

Best known for the album "My Xperience" and for collaborating with No Doubt on the song "Hey Baby," Bounty Killer was one of a number of musicians scheduled to perform at Saturday's concert.

Among them was Vybz Kartel, with whom Bounty Killer has a long-standing rivalry that has led to violence between their fans.

Promoters had said the concert would represent a truce.

Reggae artist says NYC man slashed him with sword

NEW YORK (AP)—Jamaican reggae artist Major Mackerel says he's been slashed in the head, arm and hand by a New York City man wielding a 2-foot sword.

Police say one of the musician's Brooklyn neighbors was arrested and the sword was recovered Sunday morning.

Major Mackerel was hospitalized for several hours. He left the hospital with bandages crowning his dreadlocks and wrapped around his left hand, wrist and elbow.

Major Mackerel has released several albums. His real name is Garfield Dixon.

His girlfriend, Novia Watson, says the neighbor said he was angry because the reggae artist was harassing his wife. But Watson says the artist never messed with her.

Mackerel

Major Mackerel also denies harassing the woman. His neighbor faces charges including assault with intent to cause serious injury with a weapon.

Dispute over bed-making centers on a pillow fight

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Pillow Talk in Abilene" (July 24) had to have been written by my husband, Dick. I went looking for him and asked if he had written to you. When I held up your column, he was shocked. We laughed so hard I had trouble reading the piece to him.

This scenario must be universal. I make the bed with the pillow opening on the outside; Dick makes it with the opening on the inside. We always thought it was funny because we do many things differently. Thanks for the dose of morning humor.

PAT AND DICK IN SPRING HILL, FLA.

DEAR PAT AND DICK: I'm pleased to have started your morning on a light note. Read on for more—as well as some practical explanations:

DEAR ABBY: There's a very good reason why the open end of the pillow faces the inside of the bed. When I was 3 or 4, I realized that placing the open end toward the inside would prevent monsters from getting into my pillow. It has worked like a charm for 55 years.

RESTING EASY IN KANSAS

DEAR ABBY: I was in the military, and bed-making is one of the things you learn in boot camp, in addition to how to properly fold T-shirts, underwear and bras—yes, folding bras. The mantra for placing pillowcases is, "Seam and Slack to the Center of the Rack," open end to the left (which indicates the outside edge of the bed). So there you go—straight from Uncle Sam himself.

SHELLIE IN CHICAGO

DEAR ABBY: It sounds to me that "Pillow Talk" and his wife have too much time on their hands. If all they have to do is debate which way to turn the pillows when they make the bed, how do they feel about the epidemic of belly-button lint? What difference does it make which way the pillow edges are turned? They're usually hidden by a comforter or spread anyway.

PRACTICAL IN WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: In nursing school we were taught that the opening of the pillowcase should face away from the entrance to the room. The reason is when you walk, germs and particles from the floor are kicked up and can enter the side of the pillow, which increases the potential for infections and disease through the capture of microorganisms in the pillow opening.

SANDY IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: I didn't think your readers could top (or bottom) the great toilet paper debate (over the front or under the back), but the question about the direction of the pillowcase opening has done it. Most of us are preoccupied with worrying about health care, the economy, the two wars we are fighting, our jobs and putting food on the table. That couple needs to get a life!

JOHN W., LEXINGTON, KY.

DEAR ABBY: As a young girl I was taught the "proper" way to make a bed was with the pillowcase opening facing the edge of the bed—not the middle. Back then, this was done so leaking feathers wouldn't end up inside the bed but on the floor.

INGER IN PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had the same argument, until he explained why he wanted the edges facing out. When he put his arm under me to "spoon," he would get caught in the pillowcase if it faced in. We solved the problem by making the bed up for "looks," but when we turn it down for the night, we flip the pillow around. Now we're both happy!

MINDY IN NEW MEXICO

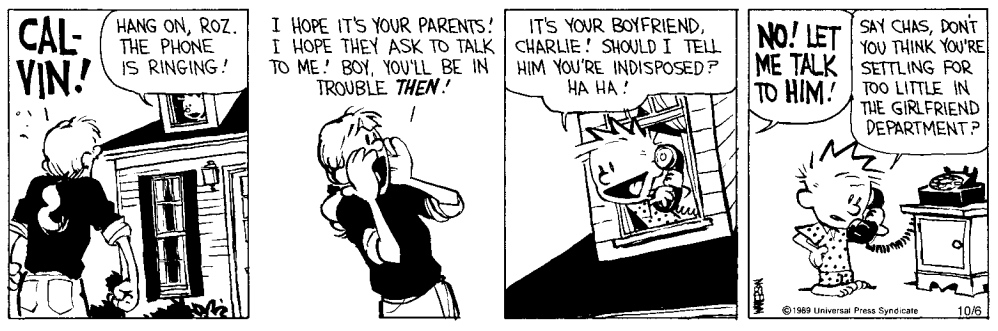
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CAL-VIN!
HANG ON, ROZ. THE PHONE IS RINGING!
I HOPE IT'S YOUR PARENTS! I HOPE THEY ASK TO TALK TO ME! BOY, YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE THEN!
IT'S YOUR BOYFRIEND, CHARLIE! SHOULD I TELL HIM YOU'RE INDISPOSED? HA HA!
NO! LET ME TALK TO HIM!
SAY CHAS, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE SETTLING FOR TOO LITTLE IN THE GIRLFRIEND DEPARTMENT?
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate
10/6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'LL SPLIT THAT WITH YOU
WAH-HA!HA!HA!HA!
OH, COME ON... THAT WAS FUNNY
JIM DAVIS 10-6
www.garfield.com
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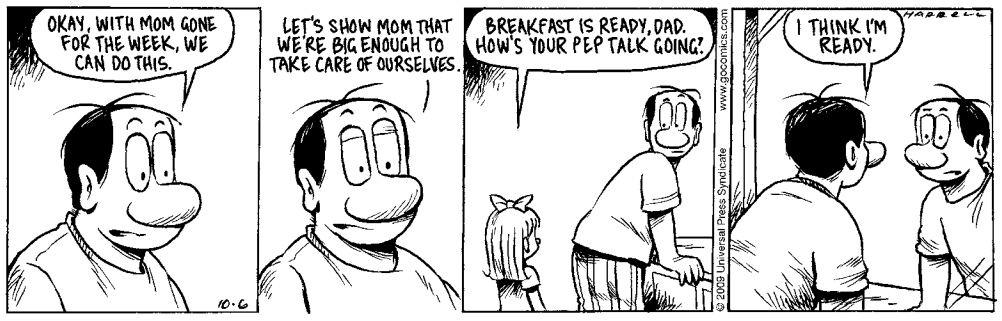
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, WITH MOM GONE FOR THE WEEK, WE CAN DO THIS.
LET'S SHOW MOM THAT WE'RE BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.
BREAKFAST IS READY, DAD. HOW'S YOUR PEP TALK GOING?
I THINK I'M READY.
10-6
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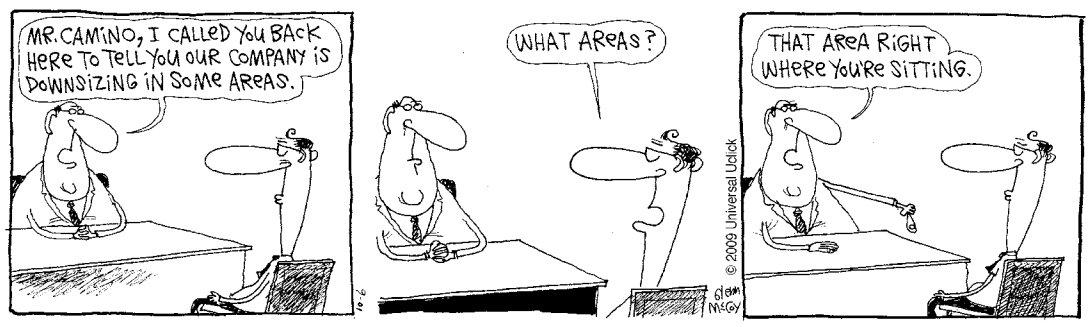
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MR. CAMINO, I CALLED YOU BACK HERE TO TELL YOU OUR COMPANY IS DOWNSIZING IN SOME AREAS.
WHAT AREAS?
THAT AREA RIGHT WHERE YOU'RE SITTING.
10-6
© 2009 Universal Uclick

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

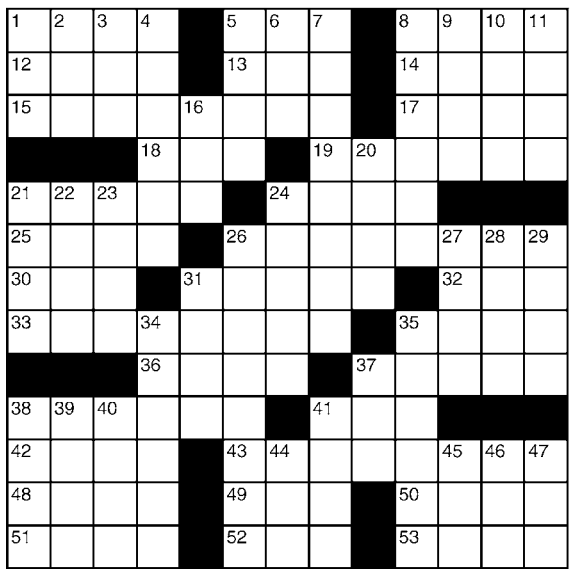
ACROSS
1 Easter entree
5 Help
8 Related (to)
12 Hodge-podge
13 Lanka preceder
14 Obey reveille
15 Inexperienced boxers
17 Unfreeze
18 Possesses
19 Barrel parts
21 Haunt
24 Burden
25 Poi base
26 Easy to perceive
30 Eco-friendly org.
31 Breathing
32 Squabble
33 Ease
35 Rescue
36 Pseudo-cultured
37 Tribe leader
38 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl
41 Calendar abbr.
42 Eager
43 Discussions
48 Sandwich shop
49 Handle
50 Send forth
51 Gaelic
52 Hot tub
53 Red gem

DOWN
1 Prune
2 Carte lead-in
3 Wire measure
4 Sobbing sound
5 Requests
6 Savings plan acronym
7 Liquefy
8 Fleet
9 Chicken —
10 Wight, e.g.
11 Volleyball barriers
16 Erstwhile acorn
20 Recording
21 Minimal progress
22 Hemingway nickname
23 Exam format
24 Non-clergy
26 Odd-looking animal
27 Actor Pitt
28 Cupid's field
29 Ornamental jug
31 Ostentatious display
34 Young Scot
35 Thin piece broken off
37 Historic time
38 Test the waters
39 Finished
40 Masseuse's stock
41 Dog bane
44 Cleo's slayer
45 Ostrich's cousin
46 Eve, originally
47 Pigpen

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	T	■	H	O	B	B	Y	■	S	A	D
U	S	E	■	O	D	I	L	E	■	H	O	E
S	H	E	B	O	Y	G	A	N	■	E	N	E
■	■	■	O	K	S	■	S	N	I	P	E	R
C	A	S	T	E	S	■	T	E	C	H	■	■
H	U	H	■	D	E	W	■	D	E	E	M	S
A	R	E	S	■	Y	A	M	■	D	R	O	P
D	A	T	E	D	■	G	A	B	■	D	N	A
■	■	L	E	A	N	■	T	U	C	S	O	N
D	E	A	R	M	E	■	I	T	O	■	■	■
O	W	N	■	S	H	E	L	L	G	A	M	E
R	E	D	■	E	R	O	D	E	■	F	O	G
M	R	S	■	L	U	N	A	R	■	T	W	O

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hannah Bridges, 19; Amy Jo Johnson, 39; Elisabeth Shue, 46; Britt Ekland, 67

Happy Birthday: It's time to get your ducks in a row financially, emotionally and physically. Start with your home and personal life and follow through by making the self-improvements that will boost your confidence. Set your budget, life and goals to suit your needs instead of trying to please everyone around you. Your numbers are 6, 10, 19, 24, 28, 36, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your emphasis should be on work and getting along with the people you do business with. A challenge is likely to appear quite suddenly and a fast reaction on your part will be necessary to avoid trouble later on. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Strive for perfection, performance and productivity. Work from home if it will help you accomplish more and open your doors to the people who can offer you the most assistance. Romance is looking good. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may have some great ideas but trying to get others to buy into your plans will not be easy. Don't waste time getting others on board—develop your ideas and present them as your own personal accomplishment. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Home is where you belong. Utilize the time you save in travel to get some of the finer, more important details completed of a project that will ensure your advancement. A romantic situation can help turn your life around. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do what you can for others. As soon as you become too me-oriented, someone will point out your faults. A trip will pay off as long as you don't go overboard. A past partnership will come in handy now if you make the initial move. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Travel the distance required to push your ideas to the right group of people. It's up to you to do the groundwork but, once you target your audience, you will get the help you need to move forward. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can move investments around or put money into your home or even collect an old debt successfully. A change at work may be sudden and unexpected but, in the end, you will realize that it was required. Don't get emotional. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A change in a relationship will pleasantly surprise you. Don't lose sight of your budget when making upgrades to your home or electronic equipment. A trip will be educational and rewarding. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Prepare to give all you've got, no matter what the job, project or challenge. One slip and you will fall through the cracks and miss out on an opportunity. This is not the time to rely on others to pull things together. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Personal and domestic changes will confirm what you had already anticipated. Act swiftly and with confidence and you can complete all the plans and projects you have on your to-do list. Romance will lead to a strong and stable relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have to make the calls and do the work yourself to get things done properly. An emotional issue regarding a neighbor, friend or relative will escalate if you don't speak truthfully about your intentions. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Set your goals and do not deviate, regardless what others do. Take care of any past association that may benefit or hinder you before you formulate a contract or deal. Laying everything out in the open will save you setbacks later. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined and willing to go the distance to achieve your goals. You are thoughtful and reasonable, entertaining, interesting and original in all that you do.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				3	9		1	
				1		2		8
			7	5			6	
		8						9
2	9	6				4	7	5
7						3		
	8			6	4			
9		7		2				
	2		3	7				1

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	3	4	7	6	5	8	1
6	4	8	2	1	5	3	9	7
1	7	5	8	9	3	2	4	6
3	6	4	7	5	8	9	1	2
8	5	9	1	2	4	7	6	3
7	2	1	3	6	9	4	5	8
9	8	6	5	3	7	1	2	4
5	1	7	6	4	2	8	3	9
4	3	2	9	8	1	6	7	5

Difficulty Level ★ 10/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

I LOVE YOUR HAIR **Solution: 7 letters**

A	S	E	R	M	A	T	C	H	I	N	G	N	T	G
S	P	X	M	E	E	V	O	R	P	P	A	O	N	N
H	O	P	S	O	S	A	M	O	R	A	U	I	E	I
P	U	R	E	T	S	P	M	S	E	C	Z	H	N	T
O	S	E	T	A	C	D	E	C	H	A	D	S	A	T
O	E	S	I	O	R	U	N	C	M	A	A	A	M	U
P	G	S	P	T	E	A	D	A	T	S	D	F	R	C
M	A	I	S	R	R	Y	N	O	H	B	M	E	E	K
A	M	O	R	G	A	I	T	C	R	T	I	E	P	Y
H	I	N	A	I	C	I	M	U	E	P	R	L	L	Y
S	H	R	E	H	A	S	S	X	A	S	E	I	A	L
T	F	S	A	L	A	H	T	E	R	E	M	G	Y	E
A	T	N	A	L	Y	U	S	G	N	A	B	H	E	V
R	G	R	O	W	R	T	E	(T)	(F)	(O)	(S)	T	R	O
E	R	N	T	E	E	W	S	K	A	E	R	T	S	L

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Admire, Amazing, Appearances, Approve, Aroma, Bangs, Beauty, Brush, Care, Change, Commend, Cutting, Dark, Expression, Family, Fashion, Fragrance, Grow, Hair, Handsome, Image, Layers, Light, Lovely, Matching, Permanent, Praise, Products, Pure, Respect, Salon, Shade, Shampoo, Smell, Soft, Spouse, Stare, Streaks, Style, Sweet, Texture, Tips, Touch, Trim, Wash

Yesterday's Answer: Campbells

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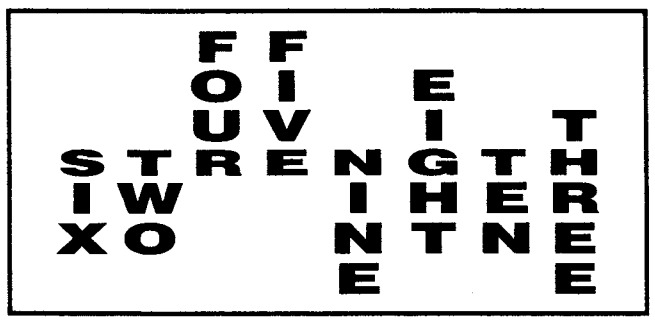

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Find today's solution in this section

Name: Regino M. Celis Jr. and Candace Quitugua
Address: P.O. Box 505402 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 233-9800

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter Of The Petitioners For The Change of Name Of: Joshua Tanner Quitugua, A Minor Child By: Regino M. Celis Jr. and Candace Quitugua, Petitioners,	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0536 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 2, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2009.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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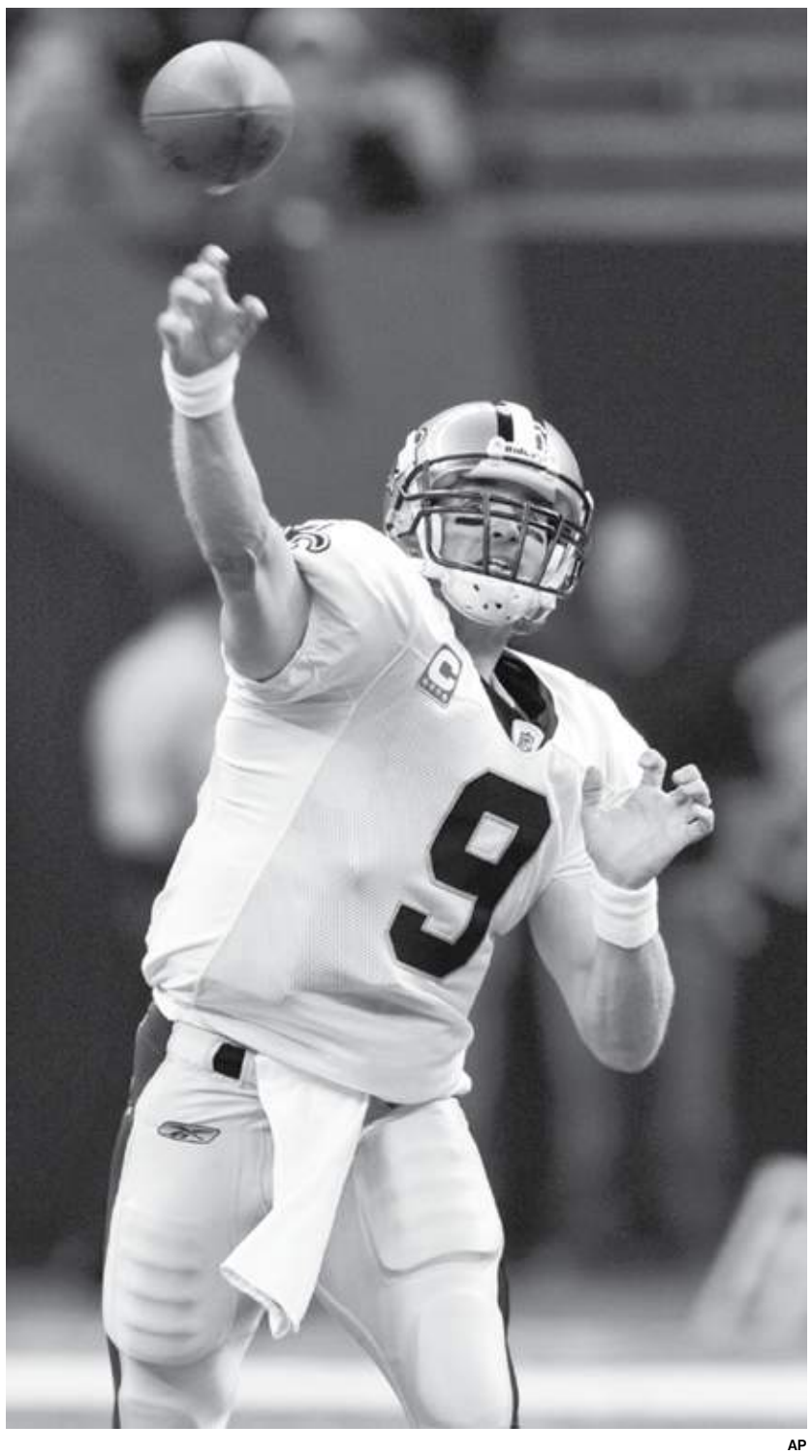
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Big defense propels undefeated Saints past Jets

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Darren Sharper returned one of his two interceptions of Mark Sanchez 99 yards for a score and Will Smith forced a fumble in the end zone to produce a second defensive touchdown as New Orleans handed the New York Jets their first loss of the season.

New York went down 24-10 despite stopping the Saints twice on fourth-and-short and holding Drew Brees to 190 yards passing and no touchdowns. New Orleans' normally high-powered offense, which entered the game ranked first in the NFL, did not score a touchdown until Pierre Thomas barreled in from a yard out with 6:07 left, but that was enough.

In his first loss as a pro, Sanchez completed 14 of 27 passes for 138 yards, which still might have been enough if not for his four turnovers.



AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes against the New York Jets in the first half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009.

Broncos 17, Cowboys 10

At Denver, Champ Bailey knocked away a potential tying touchdown pass from Tony Romo to Sam Hurd with one second left, giving the Broncos their first 4-0 start since 2003.

The Broncos took the lead on Brandon Marshall's 51-yard touchdown catch with 1:46 remaining.

Steelers 38, Chargers 28

At Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw touchdown passes on fast-starting Pittsburgh's first two drives, Rashard Mendenhall surpassed his previous career total with 165 yards rushing and two scores and the Steelers opened a 28-point lead, then held on.

Jeff Reed finished it off with a 46-yard field goal in the final minute.

49ers 35, Rams 0

At San Francisco, Tight end Vernon Davis caught a 13-yard pass for his third touchdown in two weeks and Patrick Willis returned an interception 23 yards for a score as the 49ers overcame the absence of star running back Frank Gore.

The 49ers scored in every way to take command of the NFC West after already beating reigning division champion Arizona and Seattle, recording their first shutout in 119 games since Jan. 6, 2002, 38-0 at New Orleans.

The Rams lost their 14th straight, the longest skid in the NFL.

Dolphins 38, Bills 10

At Miami, with quarterback Chad Henne making his first NFL start, the Dolphins controlled the ball for 37 minutes and earned their first victory after three straight losses to open the season.

Henne, a second-year pro, shook off six sacks and managed the game well in his first start replacing Chad Pennington, sidelined by a season-ending shoulder injury.

Patriots 27, Ravens 21

At Foxborough, Massachusetts, Tom Brady and Randy Moss hooked up for their first touchdown pass of the season and Baltimore failed on fourth-down plays on its last two series.

Moss' touchdown made it 24-14 late in the third quarter, but Joe Flacco's 13-yard pass to Willis McGahee cut that to 24-21. Stephen Gostkowski's 33-yard field goal gave the Patriots (3-1) a six-point lead midway through the fourth quarter.

Bengals 23, Browns 20, OT

At Cleveland, Shayne Graham won it on the last play of overtime with a 31-yard field goal, set up by Carson Palmer's 15-yard run on fourth down.

Not wanting to settle for a tie, Bengals coach Marvin Lewis gambled on fourth-and-11 from the Cleveland 41 with 1:04 remaining. Palmer dropped back to pass and then tucked it away and scampered up the middle for the first down. Cincinnati ran two plays to get Graham in position, and the kicker, who had an extra point and field goal blocked, drilled it through the uprights.

Jaguars 37, Titans 17

At Jacksonville, Florida, David Garrard threw for 323 yards and three touchdowns, two to Mike Sims-Walker, as the Jaguars dismantled Tennessee.

Colts 34, Seahawks 17

At Indianapolis, Peyton Manning led the Colts to touchdowns on four of their first five drives, tied milestones established by Fran Tarkenton and Dan Marino and extended Indianapolis' regular-season victory streak to 13.

Manning finished 31 of 41 for 353 yards, marking the first time in 12 NFL seasons he has topped 300 yards in four consecutive games.

It not only gave the Colts (4-0) a 21-3 halftime lead but also gave Manning a share of third place on the NFL's career touchdowns passing list. Only Dan Marino (420) and Brett Favre (469) have thrown more.

Giants 27, Chiefs 16

At Kansas City, Eli Manning threw for 292 yards and three touchdowns and the Giants remained unbeaten.

Kansas City is winless this season and has lost 27 of its last 29 games.

From the first quarter, when Jamaal Charles fumbled the opening kickoff and Manning converted it into a quick TD.

Bears 48, Lions 24

At Chicago, Jay Cutler threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score as the Bears pulled away in the second half a week after Detroit snapped its 19-game losing streak.

The Lions were celebrating a win over Washington that snapped a slide that matched the second longest in league history.

Redskins 16, Buccaneers 13

At Landover, Jason Campbell made up for a pair of first-half interceptions with two second-half touchdowns, and the Redskins scored on three straight possessions for the first time this season.

Trailing 10-0, the Redskins started their rally when DeAngelo Hall intercepted a pass from second-year quarterback Josh Johnson, making his first NFL start. Washington converted the turnover into a field goal, but Campbell hit Chris Cooley for a 17-yard touchdown and Santana Moss for a 59-yard score on the next two series.

Texans 29, Raiders 6

At Houston, Steve Slaton scored two touchdowns, Jacoby Jones returned a kickoff for a score and the Texans (2-2) finally found their running game.

LeBron, Shaq debut as teammates

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal made their first public appearance together as Cleveland teammates.

Delonte West stayed out of sight.

The Cavaliers' troubled guard, who is dealing with personal problems as well as legal issues pending from a recent arrest on weapons charges, was kept away from Cleveland's intrasquad scrimmage on Saturday, a workout that served as the Cavaliers' debut of James and O'Neal.

West skipped the first four practices of training camp, absences the team said were unexcused. He returned on Thursday and took part in workouts at Cleveland Clinic Courts, the team's suburban training facility in Independence.

General manager Danny Ferry decided to have West, who has battled mental illness for years, remain on his own during the team's Wine and Gold scrimmage at the University of Akron's Rhodes Arena, a place where James played many of his high school games.

Ferry said he didn't want to rush West back.

"I think that was probably the right step for him today," Ferry said. "The next step is the next practice. Overall, I think he is going in a good direction."

West was arrested on Sept. 17 near his home in Maryland after police found he was carrying three loaded weapons—two handguns and a shotgun, which he had in a guitar case on his back—after they pulled him over for a traffic violation while he was riding a three-wheel motorcycle. He faces misdemeanor possession charges.

West appeared at media day on Monday, when he said he had returned to taking his medications and was focused on basketball. However, West, who has said he has bipolar disorder, did not show up for practice the next day and was absent again on Wednesday.

Ferry was asked why West did not report.

"I don't know that it was the right time for him to come," said Ferry, who deferred comment about West's situation for several days.

Ferry said he has several conversations in the past two days with West, who started 64 games for the Cavs last season, during which he offered his and the team's support. Ferry, though, made it clear West must be responsible and fulfill his obligations to the team.

"There has to be a level of accountability as we're trying to build a championship culture and continue to grow as an organization," Ferry said. "There's going to be ups and downs for that for sure, but at the end our purpose will remain the same."

Last season, West was excused from training camp for about two weeks to receive treatment for mental illness.

Ferry wasn't specific but intimated that West was getting counseling.

"We are using resources to help him," he said. "I think our environment is great for people. It's a good group of people who work hard, that care about each other and want to win, and having Delonte in that I think is positive and we're excited that he's with us. I'm encouraged that he's making progress."

There is no timetable for West's return. The Cavaliers open the exhibition season at home on Tuesday against Charlotte.

As for the scrimmage, James and O'Neal played on opposite teams one last time. O'Neal, acquired in an offseason trade, played for the Gold while James led the Wine.

Shaq's team won 54-38.

O'Neal was unofficially 6 of 8 from the field, dropping at least four short jumpers and one layup when he got behind the Wine's defense. The 7-foot-1 big man is settling into his new home, but he's still learning about some of his new teammates.

When he checked in at the scorer's table during the second quarter, O'Neal wasn't sure whom he was replacing.

"I got the big kid," he said, pointing toward 7-foot-2 rookie center Luke Nevill. "I don't know his name."

He knows all about James, though. Earlier in the day, O'Neal and James mugged for the cameras and generally clowned around during the team's media day, which was postponed after two hours on Monday because of a power outage. James and O'Neal rapped some lyrics together and lifted guard Mo Williams off the ground during a photo shoot.

O'Neal, who has won four NBA titles, believes he has joined a special group.

"On paper, this is a perfect team," he said. "Shooters, big guys, slashers and the King. On paper, it's a damn good team."

James has been impressed with O'Neal's athleticism and physical condition.

"He's in shape. He looks great," said James, who scored 10 points but missed 5 of 7 free throws. "You can't ask for more than that. He's getting up and down the court. He's playing defense. He's looking really good in the low post on offense. That's what we got him here for."

Twins beat KC, set up 1-game playoff with Detroit

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jason Kubel hit a pair of three-run homers as Minnesota beat Kansas City 13-4 Sunday, putting the Twins into a one-game playoff with the Detroit Tigers for the American League Central title.

The Twins and Tigers, who beat the White Sox 5-3, will meet Tuesday with the winner earning a postseason date with the New York Yankees.

Scott Baker will start the tiebreaker for the Twins against Detroit rookie Rick Porcello. The teams get a day off because the Minnesota Vikings host Green Bay on Monday night.

Delmon Young added two solo home runs and Michael Cuddyer also homered for the Twins, who overcame a three-game deficit by winning their final four games. Minnesota won 16 of 20 to reach the playoff.

Alex Gordon homered for the Royals, who fell behind 8-1 but rallied to bring the tying run to the plate. Luke Hochevar (7-13) was hit hard.

Tigers 5, White Sox 3

At Detroit, Justin Verlander earned his 19th win and Ryan Raburn homered twice as slumping Detroit beat Chicago to force a one-game tiebreaker with Minnesota for the AL Central title.

Magglio Ordonez also homered as the Tigers won for only the third time in eight games.

Fernando Rodney got the final four outs for his 37th save.

Yankees 10, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Alex Rodriguez homered twice and drove in an AL-record seven runs in an inning, keying a 10-run burst that sent the playoff-bound New York Yankees over Tampa Bay.

Rodriguez hit a three-run homer off Wade Davis (2-2) in the sixth. He added his 18th career grand slam later in the inning. The major league record is eight, set by Fernando Tatis when he hit two grand slams in an inning for St. Louis in 1999.

A-Rod tied Mark McGwire for eighth on the career list with 583 homers. It also gave him at least 30 homers and 100 RBIs for the 12th straight season despite missing the first month with a hip injury.

Reds Sox 12, Indians 7

At Boston, J.D. Drew homered twice and Jed Lowrie hit his first career grand slam as Boston headed into the playoffs with a victory over Cleveland.

Dustin Pedroia and Alex Gonzalez also homered for Boston, which will begin the playoffs on the road against the Los Angeles Angels on either Wednesday or Thursday. Michael Bowden (1-1) got the win.

The defeat was the last in Cleveland for manager Eric Wedge, fired on Wednesday with six games left in the season. The Indians went 1-5 to finish out his tenure, ending with a club-record 15 consecutive road losses. Tomo Ohka (1-5) took the loss.

Angels 5, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, Mike Napoli homered and Joe Saunders pitched five strong innings as the Los Angeles Angels closed out an impressive regular season by beating Oakland.

Saunders (16-7) and the AL West champions (97-65) swept the three-game set and will host Boston in Game 1 of the playoffs Wednesday or Thursday.

Oakland lost its last seven games. Jeff Gray (0-1) took the loss.

Mariners 4, Rangers 3

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez finished tied for the major league lead with 19 wins as Seattle beat Texas in a season finale that doubled as a daylong tribute to Ken Griffey Jr.

The 39-year-old Seattle icon finished his one-year contract with the Mariners by going 1 for 4. Griffey has said he would be interested in playing another season if the team wants him. Griffey wiped away tears when he came back onto the field for postgame handshakes and hugs. Four of his teammates carried him on their shoulders from left field to the Mariners dugout on the first-base side.

Orioles 5, Blue Jays 4, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Michael Aubrey scored the winning run on Brandon League's second throwing error in the 11th inning, giving Baltimore a three-game sweep of Toronto.

Aubrey led off the 11th with a single and took second when League (3-6) threw wildly to first on a bunt by Lou Montanez. Jeff Fiorentino then laid down a bunt, and League's low throw to first base skipped into the outfield.

Matt Albers (3-6) pitched a perfect 11th for the Orioles, who finished the season with a four-game winning streak.

Phillies 7, Marlins 6

At Philadelphia, Paul Hoover hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning as the defending World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies prepared for their title defense with a victory over the Florida Marlins.

The Phillies (93-69) host the Rockies on Wednesday in the opener of their best-of-five division series.

Hanley Ramirez got the day off and finished with a .342 average to become the first Marlins player to win a batting title. He also is the first NL shortstop to win the batting crown since Dick Groat in 1960.

Chris Coghlan had three hits for Florida (87-75), bolstering his bid for NL Rookie of the Year.

Ryan Howard, Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley were among the resting Phillies starters.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 3

At Los Angeles, Vicente Padilla struck out 10 batters in five innings as the NL West champion Los Angeles finished the regular season with another victory over the wild-card Colorado.

The Dodgers took sole possession of first place for good on April 19 with a 14-2 win over the Rockies, won the season series 14-4 and finished three games ahead of Colorado. Los Angeles clinched its second straight division title Saturday night with a 5-0 victory.

The Dodgers (95-67) host St. Louis on Wednesday in their postseason opener.

Padilla (4-0) allowed one run and four hits. Ramon Troncoso allowed a run in the ninth before finishing for his sixth save in seven attempts.

Nationals 2, Braves 1, 15 innings

At Atlanta, Alberto Gonzalez drove in the winning run with a two-out single in the 15th inning as Washington closed the season with a seven-game winning streak.

Playing the longest game since the franchise moved to Washington from Montreal before the 2005 season, the Nationals became the first team in baseball history to close the season with seven straight wins after losing the first seven. Still, they finished 59-103 — the worst record in baseball.

Giants 4, Padres 3, 10 innings

At San Diego, Randy Johnson made what could be the last appearance of his brilliant, 22-year big league career, pitching one adventuresome inning of relief in San Francisco's victory over San Diego.

Although the Big Unit gave up an unearned run in the seventh that tied it at 3, Pablo Sandoval provided the go-ahead run when he homered on the first pitch of the 10th inning.

The 46-year-old Johnson said Thursday that he'll take his time in the off-season deciding his future. The 303-game winner also hoped to get one more outing this season, and manager Bruce Bochy wanted to oblige.

Johnson, who struck out two to increase his career total to 4,875, has said he might be done if he can't return as a starter.

Brewers 9, Cardinals 7, 10 innings

At St. Louis, Prince Fielder homered twice and Jody Gerut's two-out infield hit drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as Milwaukee sent St. Louis scuffling to the postseason.

The Cardinals failed to give manager Tony La Russa a happy 65th birthday. They finished 1-6 after clinching the NL Central and open the playoffs at the Dodgers on Wednesday.

Fielder ended with 46 homers, one behind Albert Pujols for the NL lead, and drove in three runs to tie Ryan Howard for the major league RBI title at 141.

The Brewers swept the three-game series to finished 80-82 hours after manager Ken Macha learned he'd be back for a second season. Trevor Hoffman (3-2) got the win and John Axford finished for his first career save.

Mets 4, Astros 0

At New York, Nelson Figueroa pitched a four-hitter for his first major league complete game, Angel Pagan keyed the offense and the Mets wrapped up a miserable season by completing a three-game sweep.

Figueroa (3-8) retired 13 of his final 14 batters. Pagan went 4 for 4 with a triple and two doubles.

New York (70-92) was a National League favorite back in April. But injuries decimated the roster and sent the team into a tailspin.

Mets players spent more than 1,480 days on the disabled list this year, more than any other major league team, according to STATS LLC.

Diamondbacks 5, Cubs 2

At Chicago, Doug Davis pitched eight strong innings and Chris Young homered to lead Arizona past Chicago.

Davis (9-14) allowed six hits and lost his shutout bid in the fifth when Sam Fuld hit his first major league home run, in his 102nd career at-bat. Juan Gutierrez finished for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Arizona fell from 90-72 two years ago to 82-80 last year to 70-92 this season, the third-worst record in franchise history.

Chicago, without a World Series title since 1908, finished at 83-78, down from 97-64 last year.

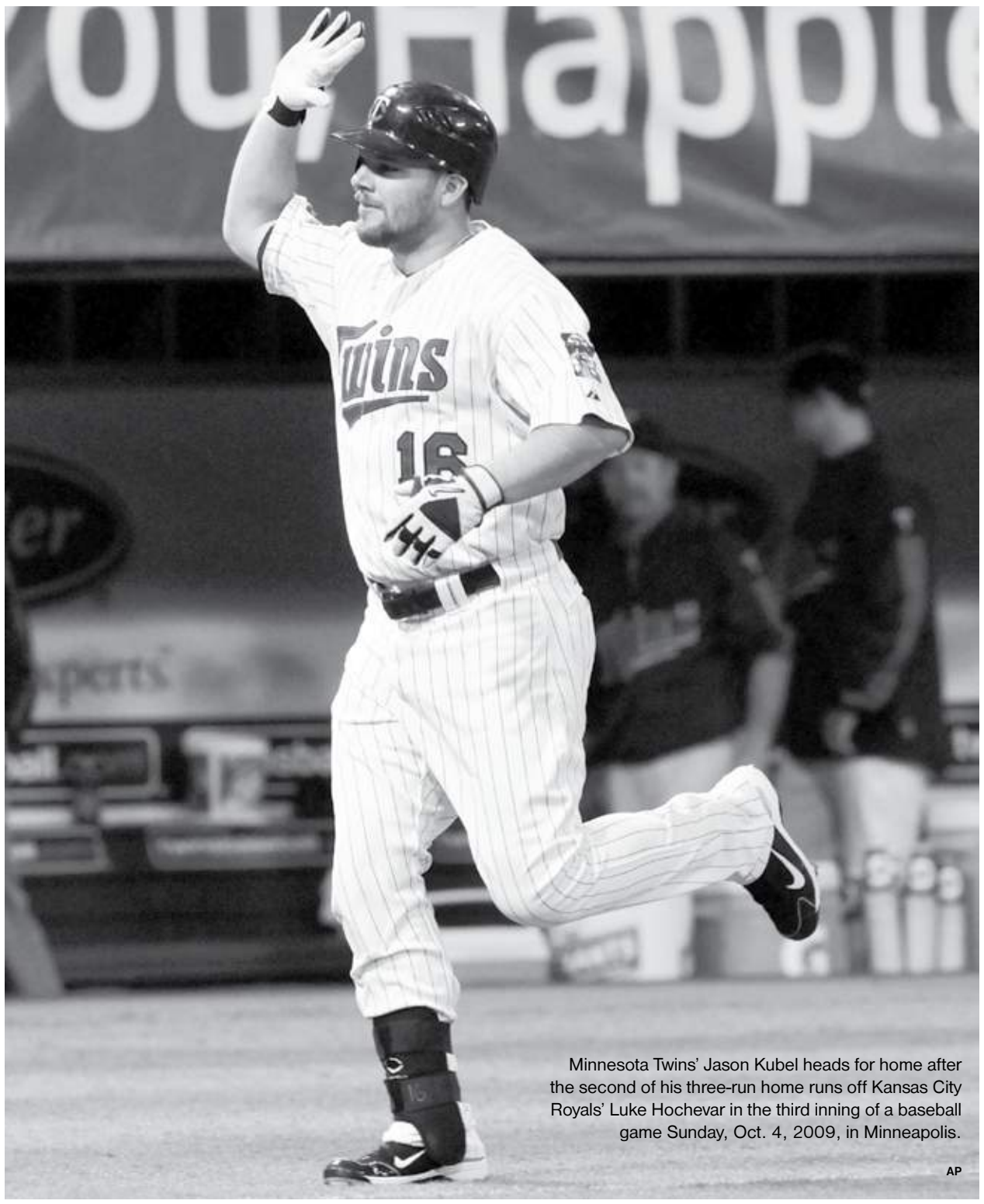
Diamondbacks slugger Mark Reynolds struck out three times and finished with a major league-record 223, 19 more than the previous mark he set last year.

Reds 6, Pirates 0

At Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips drove in three runs and Homer Bailey shut out Pittsburgh for six innings, setting up a victory as the NL Central's two more forlorn franchises ended the season together.

The Pirates finished their 17th straight losing season, while the Reds ended their ninth in a row.

Phillips was the Reds' only regular starting player who avoided the disabled list throughout the season. He had an RBI double in the first off Jeff Karstens (4-6), a run-scoring groundout and another RBI double.



Minnesota Twins' Jason Kubel heads for home after the second of his three-run home runs off Kansas City Royals' Luke Hochevar in the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, in Minneapolis.

AP

Arum says Manny in for hardest fight ever

BOXING

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—Boxing promoter Bob Arum wants to take it one fight at a time and will not go beyond November 14, when Manny Pacquiao tries to wrest the World Boxing Organization welterweight crown from Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto.

"Let us talk about who else he (Pacquiao) will fight after Nov. 15, because I think this is the hardest fight that Manny Pacquiao will encounter," said Arum, the head of Top Rank, which promotes the Pacquiao-Cotto fight.

Arum, who watched Pacquiao's sparring sessions at the Shape Up Boxing gym at the Cooyeesan mall here yesterday, said he does not want to discuss a possible fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr., saying Pacquiao has to keep his mind and body focused on Cotto.

"We don't know [about the Mayweather fight]. We have to take it one fight at a time. I haven't talked to anybody," he said.

Pacquiao

Arum described Cotto as "naturally younger, bigger and stronger."

"He (Cotto) is the most difficult fighter that [Pacquiao] has ever faced," Arum said. "I am not joking. [Pacquiao] has to prepare like he never did before. Manny has to dedicate himself [to the fight] 100 percent."

Arum said the atmosphere in Cotto's camp in the United States is buoyant.

"Cotto knows that he is on the biggest stage right now," the fight impresario said. "He is confident he can handle all that Pacquiao would give him. His camp believes that they can beat him."

Arum said excitement over the Las Vegas fight is building up. "Everybody ... can't wait for this fight."

Meanwhile, Pacquiao has tapped former world champion Dodie Boy Peñalosa to be a part of his training team.

The polio-stricken Peñalosa is the country's first ever two-division world champion after capturing the light flyweight and flyweight crowns back in the late 1980s.

Peñalosa arrived yesterday afternoon and is scheduled to join Team Pacquiao in today's training (***Philippine Daily Inquirer***).

PELELIU

From Page 28

Members of Peleliu are Poland Masaharu, Darwin Masaharu, Dennis Renguul, Roy Celis, Manny Sablan, Jerry Ayuyu, Julian Camacho, Norman Mobel, Marvin Kaipat, Mike Sablan, and Lefty Shiro.

The deciding Game 2 of the SaiPal-Peleliu title game was then reset for last Friday, but organizers suspended the match, anew due to Typhoon Melor. The rubber-match will be played this Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield starting at 7pm.

Peleliu played two games on Sept. 26, topping San Roque, 6-2, in the loser's bracket semifinals to arrange a title tiff against SaiPal.

SaiPal entered the playoffs unbeaten in two games. It debuted with a big 13-2 win over Peleliu in the first game in the elimination round on Sept. 19. A 9-2 victory over San Roque moved SaiPal in the finals.

In other preliminary game results, San Roque downed T-Rubaks, 15-5, to remain in contention in the playoffs. Peleliu also kept its finals bid alive after crushing T-Rubak, 15-1. T-Rubak was the first team to be eliminated in the fundraising tournament.

Initially, eight teams had shown an interest in participating in the Docomo/PCA event. Seven squads then showed up at the managers meeting, but only four came up with the entrance fee.

Winner of this year's tournament will receive $500 and a carved trophy. The prize money and trophy will be awarded to the champion team this Saturday during the celebration of the Palau Independence Day at the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe.

Meanwhile, PCA would like to thank the four teams that participated in the fundraiser, Dandan school officials for the use of the its field, and Docomo Pacific for being the corporate sponsor.

ART

From Page 28

will run from 9am to 5pm and will feature various weight categories. Only the Top 3 winners will be recognized in the tournament with the first placer taking home a gold medal, silver to runner-up, and bronze to third placer.

"No Gi" Jiu Jitsu is a kind of mixed martial arts similar to submission wrestling takedowns or resemble those of Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling.

Next month's event is open to seven weight classes namely, the bantamweight division (100-130 lbs), featherweight (131-140lbs), superlightweight (141-150lbs), lightweight (151-160lbs), welterweight (161-180lbs), middleweight (181-200lbs), and heavyweight (201lbs and up).

A special bout will be featured between the seven weight-class fights with a Guam bet challenging a Japanese fighter.

The tournament is open to both male and female fighters and registration fee is $25 per entry. If five or more fighters from one club/team sign up, one gets a free registration fee.

For spectators, tickets will be sold for just $5 at the door. Tickets will also be available at all Trench Warz Promotion outlets.

The Art of War 4 was originally scheduled for this Saturday, but Trench Warz Promotion postponed it to next month due to the unavailability of venues and to give fighters more time to prepare.

Trench Warz Promotion's last grappling/submission event was held in March this year with Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial leading the winners' list.

Fitial won the heavyweight class, beating Francis Mendiola in the finals. Fitial prevailed in two preliminary bouts, outclassing Marcus Estrada and Evangelis Babauta, before setting up a gold-medal duel against Mendiola.

Other champions in various weight classes were Guam's Jesse Manglona (featherweight and bantamweight), Chris "No Luv" Laayug (super-lightweight), Ryan Urquizu (lightweight), Eric Attao Sian (middleweight) and Slade Adelbai (welterweight).

For more information on Art of War 4, contact Cuki Alvarez at (670)-483-4MMA or via e-mail at trenchwarriorsaipan@yahoo.com.

8 TEAMS

From Page 28

From a four-win lead in Week 5, Jonny's Black Stallions now have a six-win advantage over second-running D' Pirate's M- Destroyers (64-38). Jonny's Black Stallions hold a 70-32 record. In third place are the Oleai Snipers (59-43), followed by VFW "Angry Dragons" (47-55), Bud's "Brothers" M (39-63), and Oleai D' Companeros (27-75).

In the A division, Naked Fish Boyz, which has a 62-40 slate, only has a three-win lead over Jonny's "KUNEJOZ" and D' Pirates "101 Proofers," which hold identical 59-43 records.

Others entered in the A division and their standings in parentheses are Bud's "FUJIN" (54-48), Jonny's "Load Up"(50-42), Bud's "Brothers" A (43-49), Bud's "Enforcer" (40-45), and Bud's "No Name" (24-61). In the Tuesday B division, D' Pirates CK–Destroyers are ahead of the pack with their 61-29 record. Behind by 11 wins in second place are D' Pirates "B" Destroyers (50-40), followed by VFW Naughty Boyz (48-42), Bud's "Bring it on 1" (35-55), Bud's Bar "Pure Budz" (31-44), and Jonny's "Samurai" (30-45).

Sister teams Bud's "Brothers" B and Bud's "Bring it on 11" continue to occupy the Top 2 spots in the Thursday B division with the former holding a 76-29 slate and the latter having a 68-37 record.

Remington Naughty Boyz is in third place with a 62-43 mark, while Naked "Man F.O.T.T.E" and Bud's B-Bwiibwis rounded out the Top 5 with their 59-46 and 54-51 records, respectively.

Other entered in the Thursday B division are USSP "No Fear" (54-51), VFW "Dutty Gunz" (44-61), The Flair "Salut Balut" (44-61), Snicker N' Tuna "Lights Out" (34-71), and The Flair "Get Sum" (30-75).

Jonny's "Wasabe" (66-24) kept the lead in the C Kingfisher division against second placers USSP " Young Gunz and Bar Gaia "Gaiana," which hold similar 55-35 slates.

VFW "One Shot" is in fourth place with its 52-38 record, while Remington "ADH" (42-48) and Bye (0-90) are in fifth and sixth spot, respectively.

The C Chichirika division has Bud's Bwiibwis "C", Snicker's "Lucky Shot", and Bud's C–Bwiibwis in the Top 3. Bud's Bwiibwis "C" holds a 58-32 slate against Snicker's "Lucky Shot" and Bud's C–Bwiibwis 53-37 and 50-44, respectively.

Completing the standings are Bud's Darty Deeds (46-44), D' Pirates "Sang & the Gang" (44-46), and USSP "Bomsoro" (19-71).

In the ladies division, VFW "Yakau" widens its lead after improving to a 48-27 record. It is ahead by seven wins against second-running Jonny's.Com (41-34). Still in third place are the Bud's "Bwiibwis Mermaids" (30-45), followed by Tijuana "B-52 Shooters" (28-32), and Snicker's "Mama Sniper's" (18-27).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	103	59	.636	–
z-Boston	95	67	.586	8
Tampa Bay	84	78	.519	19
Toronto	75	87	.463	28
Baltimore	64	98	.395	39

Central Division

Detroit	86	76	.531	–
Minnesota	86	76	.531	–
Chicago	79	83	.488	7
Cleveland	65	97	.401	21
Kansas City	65	97	.401	21

West Division

y-Los Angeles	97	65	.599	–
Texas	87	75	.537	10
Seattle	85	77	.525	12
Oakland	75	87	.463	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

y-Philadelphia	93	69	.574	–
Florida	87	75	.537	6
Atlanta	86	76	.531	7
New York	70	92	.432	23
Washington	59	103	.364	34

Central Division

y-St. Louis	91	71	.562	–
Chicago	83	78	.516	7 1/2
Milwaukee	80	82	.494	11
Cincinnati	78	84	.481	13
Houston	74	88	.457	17
Pittsburgh	62	99	.385	28 1/2

West Division

y-Los Angeles	95	67	.586	–
z-Colorado	92	70	.568	3
San Francisco	88	74	.543	7
San Diego	75	87	.463	20
Arizona	70	92	.432	25

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 4, Houston 0
Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 7, Florida 6, 10 innings
Washington 2, Atlanta 1, 15 innings
Milwaukee 9, St. Louis 7, 10 innings
Arizona 5, Chicago Cubs 2
San Francisco 4, San Diego 3, 10 innings
L.A. Dodgers 5, Colorado 3
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 3
Boston 12, Cleveland 7
Baltimore 5, Toronto 4, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 10, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 13, Kansas City 4
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 3
Seattle 4, Texas 3

y-clinched division
z-clinched wild card

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	1	0	.750	74	57
New England	3	1	0	.750	87	71
Miami	1	3	0	.250	81	79
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	74	110

South

Indianapolis	4	0	0	1.000	106	62
Jacksonville	2	2	0	.500	97	86
Houston	2	2	0	.500	94	92
Tennessee	0	4	0	.000	75	108

North

Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	124	80
Cincinnati	3	1	0	.750	84	76
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	85	78
Cleveland	0	4	0	.000	49	118

West

Denver	4	0	0	1.000	79	26
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	101	102
Oakland	1	3	0	.250	42	86
Kansas City	0	4	0	.000	64	112

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0	1.000	107	64
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	94	72
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	96	78
Washington	2	2	0	.500	56	62

South

New Orleans	4	0	0	1.000	144	66
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	57	53
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	37	87
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	54	107

North

Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	88	57
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	105	78
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	81	63
Detroit	1	3	0	.250	83	134

West

San Francisco	3	1	0	.750	102	53
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	57	68
Seattle	1	3	0	.250	74	82
St. Louis	0	4	0	.000	24	108

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 48, Detroit 24
Houston 29, Oakland 6
Washington 16, Tampa Bay 13
Indianapolis 34, Seattle 17
N.Y. Giants 27, Kansas City 16
New England 27, Baltimore 21
Cincinnati 23, Cleveland 20, OT
Jacksonville 37, Tennessee 17
Miami 38, Buffalo 10
New Orleans 24, N.Y. Jets 10
Denver 17, Dallas 10
San Francisco 35, St. Louis 0
Pittsburgh 38, San Diego 28

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SEDA STANDINGS

MASTER DIVISION

Jonny's Black Stallions	70	32
D' Pirate's M- Destroyers	64	38
Oleai Snipers	59	43
VFW "Angry Dragons"	47	55
Bud's "Brothers" M	39	63
Oleai D' Companeros	27	75

A DIVISION

Naked Fish Boyz	62	40
Jonny's "KUNEJOZ"	59	43
D' Pirates "101 Proofers"	59	43
Bud's "FUJIN"	54	48
Jonny's "Load Up"	50	52
Bud's "Brothers" A	43	59
Bud's "Enforcer"	40	45
Bud's "No Name"	24	61

TUESDAY B DIVISION

D' Pirates CK - Destroyers	61	29
D' Pirates "B" Destroyers	50	40
VFW Naughty Boyz	48	42
Bud's "Bring it on 1"	35	55
Bud's Bar "Pure Budz"	31	44
Jonny's "Samurai"	30	45

THURSDAY B - DIVISION

Bud's "Brothers" B	76	29
Bud's "Bring it on 11"	68	37
Remington Naughty Boyz	62	43
Naked "Man F.O.T.T.E"	59	46
Bud's B-Bwiibwis	54	51
USSP "No Fear"	54	51
VFW "Dutty Gunz"	44	61
The Flair "Salut Balut"	44	61
Snicker N' Tuna "Lights Out"	34	71
The Flair "Get Sum"	30	75

"C" KINGFISHER DIVISION

Jonny's "Wasabe"	66	24
USSP "Young Gunz	55	35
Bar Gaia "Gaiana"	55	35
VFW "One Shot"	52	38
Remington "ADH"	42	48
BYE	0	90

"C" CHICHIRIKA DIVISION

Bud's Bwiibwis "C"	58	32
Snicker's "Lucky Shot"	53	37
Bud's C - Bwiibwis	50	40
Bud's Darty Deeds	46	44
D' Pirates "Sang & the Gang"	44	46
USSP "Bomsoro"	19	71

"LADIES" LEAGUE

VFW "Yakau"	48	27
Jonny's. Com	41	34
Bud's "Bwiibwis Mermaid"	30	45
Tijuana "B-52 Shooters"	28	32
Snicker's "Mama Sniper's"	18	27

BANMI

From Page 28

Oct. 10, 17, and 24 and will run from 8am to 5pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Rangamar said the clinic is open to those interested individuals, teachers, and club coaches who wish to improve their knowledge on the sport and help move the playing standard in the CNMI to a higher level.

The course will run for 23 hours with majority of the hours (more than 13 hours) devoted to application and the rest (more than nine hours) focusing on coaching principles and theories.

The clinic is free, but interested participants must complete an enrolment form and fill out the course outline. Individuals in the 18-and-above age group are encouraged to attend the clinic. Participants must also complete the course to gain accreditation.

Registration forms may be picked up at the Ada gym. For more information, contact Rangamar at 664-25-02 or via email at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Ji Hoon Heo, left, poses with the champions in other age group competitions in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August at the Goodman Fielder International Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka.

Ji Hoon Heo enjoys a light moment with CNMI coach Jeff Race.

Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor pose in front of the CNMI flag.

The North Pacific Team pose for a group photo.

Ji Hoon Heo, standing seventh left, joins other Top 4 finishers in showing their certificates.

Ji Hoon Heo jumps off a return shot during one of his matches in the boys' 18-and-under singles.

Ji Hoon Heo, right, shakes hand with his opponent.

Ji Hoon Heo waits for the ball during one of the elimination games in Fiji.

Ji Hoon Heo goes for a backhand return.

Ji Hoon Heo serves during his title game against Fiji's Chris Hargrove.

Big defense propels undefeated Saints past Jets

Darren Sharper returned one of his two interceptions of Mark Sanchez 99 yards for a score and Will Smith forced a fumble in the end zone to produce a second defensive touchdown as New Orleans handed the New York Jets their first loss of the season. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Twins beat KC, set up 1-game playoff with Detroit

Jason Kubel hit a pair of three-run homers as Minnesota beat Kansas City 13-4 Sunday, putting the Twins into a one-game playoff with the Detroit Tigers for the American League Central title. 24

BANMI completes clinic on Rota

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands has laid the foundation of basketball on Rota by holding a clinic there last week.

"There's not much going on on Rota, as far as basketball is concerned, so hopefully, this clinic will make way for Rota's active involvement in the sport," BANMI development officer and president Elias Rangamar said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rangamar held the clinic on Rota from Tuesday to Thursday with the help of BANMI Referee Association head Gabriel White.

The duo introduced to Rota coaches/players the basics of basketball administration and conducted a Level 0 clinic for coaches and referees in one of the classrooms at the Rota campus of Northern Marianas College.

"There is a great interest among the youth in Rota to play basketball, but they don't have the people who know how do run a tournament or a league. In this case, our first step toward developing the sport on Rota is to teach interested individuals the administrative part of conducting a tournament or a league," Rangamar added.

Secondly, Rangamar said it is important to educate coaches and referees.

"One may run a league and players may come to play, but without coaches and referees, it's still an exercise in futility," the BANMI head added.

Rangamar said once organizers learn how to administer leagues/tournaments and coaches and referees are certified and started to work together with the players, Rota can begin holding its own events.

"Our goal for now is to have them at least run a 3-on-3 tournament. This small-scale event will get them the feel on how a tournament is run," Rangamar said.

"From there, we hope they will start holding regular tournaments and eventually, they can come here on Saipan to join some of our basketball events," he said.

The BANMI official added schools involvement is also crucial in the development of the sport in Rota.

"We are planning to talk to these schools and help them run short tournaments/leagues among their students. These schools are the ones who have access to many players and venues, so it is important to include them in the program to develop the sport on the island," Rangamar said.

Meanwhile, BANMI will also conduct a similar clinic on Saipan, starting this weekend.

The coaching clinic is scheduled for

See BANMI on Page 26

ROSELYN MONROYO

BANMI's Gabriel White, left, and Elias Rangamar, right, seen here in an awards presentation of a goodwill tournament between Saipan and Japan players, were in Rota last week for a three-day clinic.

Peleliu forces rubber-match against SaiPal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Peleliu lived for another day after winning Game 1 of its title duel against SaiPal in the 2009 Docomo Pacific/Palauan Community Association Slow-pitch Softball Tournament on Sept. 26 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Up against SaiPal, which has a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals after going undefeated in the elimination round, Peleliu forced a do-or-die game after a 2-0 win in Game 1. Game 2 was supposed to be played a few minutes after the first game, but organizers rescheduled it due to the unavailability of the players.

Several members of SaiPal and Peleliu were set to play in a separate tournament over at the Capital Hill Ballfield later in the afternoon.

SaiPal is composed of Tyrone Omar, Jason Hayes, Hector Efraim, Lawrence Dikito, Juan Dikito, Gloyd Martin, Kuich Damian, Jay Camacho, Cliff Silil, John Terlaje, Marino Hiroichi Jr., and Luis Ngiraikelau.

See PELELIU on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Roy Celis, seen here preparing to bat during a local tournament early this year, plays for Peleliu, which forced a deciding Game 2 against SaiPal in the championship round of the 2009 Docomo Pacific/Palauan Community Association Slow-pitch Softball Tournament on Sept. 26 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Art of War 4 at Ada Gymnasium

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It's final, the Art of War IV: All-Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge 2009 will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium on Nov. 14.

After checking on various venues for its whole day "No Gi" Jiu Jitsu tournament, Trench Warz Promotional finally decided to have the event at the much accessible facility inside the Oleai Sports Complex. Other venues considered were the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium and Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

The "No Gi" Jiu Jitsu tournament

See ART on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Jay Muna hits the floor, but still scored a 9-4 win over Kyle Nanauta during their featherweight bout in the The Art of War 3: All-Island Grappling Submissions Challenge held in March this year at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Looking on is referee Terence "T-Rex" Alfague.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of The Flair "Salut Balut" pose for a group photo before their game in the Thursday-B division against Bud's "Bud Brother."

8 teams keep lead in SEDA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jonny's Black Stallions and seven others strengthened their hold to the top spot in the Masters division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League after Week 6 of action in the biannual event being held at the various bars on Saipan.

See 8 TEAMS on Page 26